

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 07/21/15

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

PRESENT: Jackie Thompson-Oster, Jeff McLaud, Debbie Schroeder, Darrel Wrider, Don Clow, , Ron Gonder, Felicia Wyrick, Michelle Barker
STAFF: Sven Leff, Todd Fagan, Angie Cole, Lisa Miller, Daniel Gibbins
ABSENT: Barb Hannon, Bill Unger, Mary Lee Malmberg, Susie Weinacht, June Schumacher

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 am.
2. Jeff McLaud motioned to accept the 06/06/15 Minutes, Darrel Wrider seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. New Member Introduction – The new member of the Commission was not present to be introduced. Several members of the Commission expressed interest in going on a tour of the facilities as done previously. It was noted that the tour should include Bever Park Zoo and the skate park.
 - b. Election of Officers –
 - a. Felicia Wyrick motioned to nominate Jeff McLaud for Chair of the Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission, Ron Gonder seconded, Motion approved.
 - b. Jeff McLaud motioned to nominate Felicia Wyrick for Vice Chair of the Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission, Ron Gonder seconded, Motion approved.
 - c. Jeff McLaud motioned to nominate Don Clow for Secretary of the Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission, a. Felicia Wyrick seconded, Motion approved.
 - c. Envisioning Bever Park Zoo – Sven asked for dialog from the Commission regarding a new vision for the current Bever Park Zoo. Sven reported that Julie Meyers is retiring after 34 years of service. The zoo is not closing but the department is interested in exploring new ideas and partnerships for the zoo. There are many maintenance and project needs on site. Daniel Gibbins commented that this location is not a zoo as it used to be. Upgrades have been made to the barn, fencing and roofs. The hope of the department is to turn this area into a vibrant and relevant location that shows our culture and sustainable partnerships. The Commission discussed many ideas which included a watershed educational component, local urban farming, Kirkwood Animal Program, School District, Mathew 25, Linn County Conservation, Iowa State Extension, 4H and Master Gardeners as potential partners. Iowa BIG has several concepts they have done that will be emailed out to the Commission. Other ideas included creating three concepts for an open house to gain public feedback. Others suggested showing people's own history photos on display along with zoo history. Many people agreed the main direction the zoo should go is to make a farm like setting where people can be interactive at the site.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Fundraising Report – Jackie reported that a check was received from Color Vibe for \$2,228 for Recreation's portion of the fundraiser. The Family Day at the BBQ Round Up is having a follow up meeting to discuss the results of the event. Ron asked that better signage be provided for the individual

events happening on site. Sven Leff asked that goals for fundraising and a calendar of fundraising events be put on the next agenda.

- Foundation Report – Sven Leff did not have an update on the Foundation at this time.

6. **REPORTS:**

A. Sports Tourism Report: No report was provided.

B. Director's Report – The Director's Report was distributed via e-mail.

- Daniel reported that the DNR acknowledged that the goose round up did not work as many of the 340 geese caught returned. They are looking at different options for next year.
- Lisa answered questions and confirmed that the decline in golf is a trend that has been seen nationally. Lisa will continue to work on the Jr. Golf Program with Kids on Course.

C. Council Report – No report was given.

D. Public Input –

- Nate Sherwood asked permission to paint the graffiti at the skate park. Daniel Gibbins said they could meet and walk through it. Discussion was also held on ways to maintain and replace the skate park.
- A representative from the NW Neighborhood Association thanked everyone for the ground breaking of the Recreation Center and said they were excited about the Greenway athletic fields.

E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items:

- Felicia Wyrick gave an update from the Friends of Cedar Lake Blue Zones initiatives.
- Jeff McLaud asked that event endorsement for Cedar Boat Club be added to the next agenda.

F. Motion to adjourn, Don Clow, seconded by Felicia Wyrick – Meeting adjourned 9:00 am.

NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center - Five Seasons Conference Room – 500 15th Ave. SW.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Cole