

## **PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 10/20/15**

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at City Services Center, 500 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

**PRESENT:** Jackie Thompson-Oster, Jeff McLaugh, Darrel Wridler, Don Clow, Felicia Wyrick, Barb Hannon, Bill Unger, Susie Weinacht  
**STAFF:** Sven Leff, Angie Cole, June Schumacher, Gail Loskill, Daniel Gibbins  
**ABSENT:** Michelle Barker, Ron Gonder, Debbie Schroeder, Mary Lee Malmberg

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 am.
2. Don Clow motioned to approve the 08/18/15 Minutes (no meeting 9/15/15), Bill Unger seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. Bever Zoo/Old MacDonald's Farm Discussion – The students from the Iowa BIG Program gave a PowerPoint presentation on their vision for restructuring the Bever Zoo/Old MacDonald's Farm area. Discussion followed on various programs, events and ideas that could be hosted at this location. Julie Myers retired September 30<sup>th</sup> and the department is in the process of hiring a replacement. The new person may have ideas to contribute. Commission members feel it will be important to educate the public on the new concept associated with the area. It was also recommended that the term "zoo" not be used, petting zoo may be acceptable but the new concept is to make it into more of an urban farm. Staff will need to seek out new partners and involve such partners in an open house for the outreach to the public.
6. **REPORTS:**
  - A. Sports Tourism Report:
    - No Report – Mary Lee absent
  - B. Director's Report – The Director's Report was distributed via e-mail. Sven briefed on the EAB and the response plan. The FY17 budget information deadline is October 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - C. Council Report – Susie Weinacht discussed the need for recreation opportunities for every quadrant. Tweens/Teens and Seniors are really lacking programs. Discussion followed regarding the difficulty getting the Tweens/Teens engaged in programs due to their involvement in school activities. Parks & Recreation provides jobs for this age group which contributes to them being engaged in the community. Rec centers in quadrants would at least provide a gathering space for this group. Horizons is now working on a multi-generational center. New facilities cost money not only to build but to operate. Jeff McLaugh stated that the public doesn't seem to mind taxes being raised if they see something tangible for the increase.
  - D. Public Input – None

- E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items: Felicia gave an update on Cedar Lake. Fall clean-up will be held Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am. Bill Unger reported that Lisa Miller has won the Horton Smith Award for dedication, leadership and outstanding contributions to the PGA educational program. Jeff McLaud stated he would like to see a couple of small fishing piers instead of one big pier as fishermen usually are spread out in different areas.
  
- F. Motion to adjourn, Darrel Wrider, seconded by Felicia Wyrick – Meeting adjourned 8:56 am.

**NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center - Five Seasons Conference Room – 500 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW.**

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher