

## **MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

November 9, 2016, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Kyle Martin, John McIntosh, Terry Speral, Charlie Kress,  
Patty Wise

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Karlene Hummel, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Jo Moore

### Minutes

Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Wise to approve the October 12, 2016, regular Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Reports

The October Financial Report was reviewed. Moved by Wise and seconded by Speral to approve the October Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

The October Invoice Report was received and filed. Staff reviewed some of the payments processed: Altorfer Inc. (\$962.00 for Safe Room generator service contract), EB Solutions Inc. (\$1,614.00 for Squaw Creek Park wetland monitoring of the Krumholtz property), and Microtel Inn & Suites (\$212.84 for hotel rooms for Live Band Karaoke).

### Public Input

Friends of the Marion Parks Vice-President Jo Moore indicated a member of the Friends organization will be attending Park Board meetings in an effort to come up with additional ways to support the department.

### Modern Piping Service Agreement

The agreement with Modern Piping for maintenance of the HVAC system at the Arts and Environmental Center has expired. A three-year agreement was presented with the same terms as prior but an increase from \$978 to \$1,068 per quarter. This reflects a 9 percent increase, but was at the old rate for the past 4 years. Modern Piping has been a good company to work with and they know the system well. Moved by Wise and seconded by Speral to approve a three-year service agreement with Modern Piping for the Arts and Environmental Center's HVAC system at a rate of \$1,068 per quarter (\$4,272 annually). All in favor, motion carried.

#### Sejkora Farms, Inc. Lowe Park Farmland Agreement

The annual lease agreement is being renewed with Sejkora Farms for farmland on Lowe Park. Due to the decrease in price for corn and soybeans, and fewer acres being leased, the rent will drop from \$250 to \$225 per acre. This falls within the Iowa State District 6's cropland values of \$208 per acre for low quality land, and \$240 to \$260 per acre for medium quality land. Moved by Kress and seconded by Sperl to recommend to City Council approval of the one-year lease agreement with Sejkora Farms, Inc. for 33 acres at a rate of \$225 per acre. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Marion Swimming Pool Hours of Operation

Staff presented concerns of the decrease in attendance at the pool and the costs to remain open after 6 p.m. for a small group of swimmers (on average 15). Hummel surveyed other communities of all sizes to compare hours of operations. The Board reviewed two options for operating hours and the potential cost savings. Sperl asked why there is a drop in attendance in the evening. Hummel suggested it may be due to children or families being involved in other activities. If the pool would close earlier, there would be the opportunity for the department to offer additional aquatics programs and other special events. Martin asked about the timeline for a new pool. Carolan reviewed the process and timeline to move forward with a new pool; the first step would be to secure the land. Moved by Wise and seconded by Martin to approve Option A as presented for the pool operation hours. This would be Monday to Friday 12:30 to 7:00 p.m. (one hour shorter), and Saturday and Sunday 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. (two hours shorter). All in favor, motion carried.

#### Recreation Program Fee Adjustments

Recreation staff have reviewed program costs and fees charged and are proposing increased fees for a few programs to take effect with the printing of the new activities brochure. The goal is to break even. Linn-Mar recently sent a notice of additional facility usage fees for weekend custodial service, which will impact the youth basketball programs. Other fee adjustments are driven by increase costs of supplies and additional staff needed. Moved by Martin and seconded by Wise to approve the new fees as proposed to begin in 2017 for Lil' Chefs Cooking from \$25 to \$30, Lil' Leprechaun's Day Camp/Halloween Boo Camp/Santa's Little Workshop from \$20 to \$25, EGGStraordinary Egg Hunt/Candy Cane Hunt from \$10 to \$12, and Youth Basketball (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade) from \$36 to \$39. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Receive and File

None.

#### Other Items

None.

#### Staff Report

The monthly staff report was received and filed.

The pond improvements at Waldo's Rock Park have been completed. Nickol Earthmoving's quote was \$8,000, but actual costs came in under \$7,000. Work originally included three wintering holes for habitat, but the contractor was able to create six. Staff submitted a request for 90 percent of the REAP Grant funding, which was received this week.

Work on the Lowe Park Development project is about three weeks behind, but should be wrapped up next week. The department has assisted with prep work for the trail to be put down by LL Pelling, and continues grading and seeding throughout the project area.

Urban Forestry staff have completed several fall tree plantings. Throughout the community 33 trees were planted as part of the Street Tree Replacement Program. The Linn-Mar Ag Science class assisted with planting 12 trees adjacent to the high school; these trees were funded by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Trees for Kids grant. There were 66 trees planted in Lowe Park at the new south entrance and future playground area.

The youth flag football program has wrapped up and the basketball programs begin practices next week. The basketball program will utilize three Linn-Mar gyms for practices and games.

Carolan indicated he met with the city's IT (Information Technology) department about obtaining wireless internet access for Lowe Park and Thomas Park facilities. The project should be completed by the end of December 2016.

#### Board Discussion Time

Kress shared he will be having triple bypass surgery on November 15.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

Terry Sperial, Secretary