

MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES

August 13, 2014, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Patty Wise, Charles Kress, Kyle Martin, Terry Sperl

ABSENT: John McIntosh

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Tony Ireland, Aaron VanMilligan, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by Kress and seconded by Sperl to approve the July 9, 2014, Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Moved by Wise, and seconded by Sperl to approve the July Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

The July Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted.

Public Input

None

Rental Request for Time Extension

A request was received from Julie Sperl for a time extension to 11:00 p.m. with the rental of the Safe Room in September 2015 for the Marion Class of 1965 50th Reunion. Moved by Wise, and seconded by Martin to approve the time extension to 11:00 p.m. for the rental of the Safe Room in September 2015. All in favor, motion carried.

Naming of the new Thomas Park Pavilions

The two new pavilions in Thomas Park are completed and are being used for rentals. Moved by Kress, and seconded by Sperl to name the pavilions in honor of past Park Board member Ed Begley, with the name of Begley #1 and Begley #2. All in favor, motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Department proposed Dress Code

Carolan drafted a proposed Department Dress Code and it has been approved by the City Manager. Carolan indicated that the Parks & Recreation Department Dress Code varied from the guidelines recommended by the City Manager. Professional dress sandals are allowed daily, and sneakers, department logo items and denim on casual Fridays. The dress code does break out guidelines for administrative, recreation and pool (including recreational program assistants, concession, pool, swim instructors,

building attendants) and operations personnel. Sperl asked if there have been problems with inappropriate dress and Carolan replied that there have not been any issues within the department. Sperl feels that the City Manager and City Council have wasted time on this issue and have more important things that should be attended to. Carolan said that the Personnel Policy states that dress code is set by the department head and approved by the City Manager. Kress says that it is good to have the guidelines on paper for employees. VanMilligan said that it really won't change anything for the current employees as they already abide by these standards. Wise noted that there is a hem length identified for shorts and capris as "to the knee," but there is no such wording for skirts and dresses. Moved by Kress, and seconded by Wise to approve the Parks and Recreation Dress Code with amendments to the hem length of the skirts and dresses to read "to the knee." All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly Staff Report

The staff report was reviewed and filed. The retainage for the Amphitheater project is being held until the screen wall door is replaced. Barnes Manufacturing should have the doors to the electrical panel installed at the end of the month. The handrails were installed and approved by the building department during the final inspection.

There have been 25 tree removals and as many tree trimmings that have been done following the June 30th storms. This has taken a lot of staff time. Another staff will be trained to inspect tree issues, but this has been delayed due to the flooding. The Tree Board would like this person to be a certified as an arborist.

Creekside has completed landscaping the perimeter of the round-a-bout at Tower Terrace and Alburnett Road, and extra dirt has been brought in for the center.

All trails will be opened on August 15th. Shoulder work and seeding still needs to be completed.

Legion Park parking lot upgrades and resurfacing has been completed. The trail access was also redone at that area. There are 53 parking stalls and 3 handicapped spaces available.

When the Krumboltz Bridge was completed, a permit to mitigate the wetland area was obtained; however there have been no annual reports or inspections done since the original permit three years ago. Carolan is working to resolve this.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is offering a Forestry Grant for communities with population over 5,000. If awarded, the grant would help to organize the Tree Board, a tree inventory, and with staff training. The Tree Board has approved applying for the grant.

Eight pool umbrellas and 18 chairs have been placed at the pool for attendees to enjoy. Invoice to repair the pump failure earlier this summer have been received from Brecke for \$5,000 and from Mark Barnd for \$2,500.

The Blue Zone yoga held at the Amphitheater had 70 attendees the first Saturday and 80 the second. The Reading Program held at Lowe weekly during the summer had attendance ranging from 10 to 25. Rolle Bolle was introduced to 25 people during the free “come and learn” sessions. Baseball and softball seasons concluded and had an overall good season. Six teams participated in the new Adult Bags League held at Lowe Park and had a lot of fun. Teams for the flag football program are being put together; there are 250 kids signed up.

“Picnic on the Prairie” organized by the Arts Council is set for August 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

The Master Gardeners are getting ready for their tomato tasting event held during the Swamp Fox Festival at Lowe Park.

There has been an uptick in vandalism at Lowe Park. The hoop house was damaged; at night there are people hanging out and drinking; and skateboarding on the Amphitheater.

Other Receive and File

The following item was received and filed: Master Gardeners’ activity report, Kona Ice May to July sales reports, email regarding swim lessons from Sherrie Mauren, thank you notes from Marion Community Bands and Sarah Schoon.

Other action or discussion items

Kress asked about the scheduled activities at the Amphitheater. Carolan stated there are 4 to 5 weddings already booked. The Swamp Fox Festival activities beginning at 4:30 p.m. on September 6th will be held at Lowe Park with the musical performers using the Amphitheater stage. Rental requests should increase as word of mouth spreads.

Board Discussion Time

Kress commented about the letter to the editor that Kay Lammers submitted to the Marion Times. He feels her comments regarding the Park Board are not true and that perhaps she took a comment from someone out of context.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

Kyle Martin, Secretary