

## **MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

October 8, 2014, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Patty Wise, Charles Kress, Kyle Martin,  
Terry Sperial, John McIntosh

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Karlene Hummel, Aaron VanMilligan, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Doug Peyton, Matt Geer

### Minutes

Moved by Kress and seconded by Sperial to approve the September 10, 2014, Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Reports

Moved by McIntosh, and seconded by Martin to approve the September Financial Report. Revenues for ball diamond rentals, recreation programs, and cemetery spaces are all up. Rentals at the Arts and Environment Center and for the Safe Room are on track. The expenditure budget for the Arts Center was rolled into the Parks budget and expenditures are reflected as such. All in favor, motion carried.

The September Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted. Expenses for flood repairs are still being processed. A \$600 contribution from Devon Dietz was received to help offset costs for mulching at the conifer gardens at Lowe Park. There was a tractor transmission repair invoice from P&K Midwest in the amount of \$1,841.60, and an invoice from Modern Piping Service in the amount of \$641.25 for boiler repairs at the pool.

### Public Input

Doug Peyton from the Greater Cedar Rapids Area Disc Golf Club thanked the Board for their support of the Spring Tournament held at Legion Park. There were 207 participants, including some worldwide competitors. The tournament is the largest in Iowa.

Mat Geer, Titan Disc Golf of Cedar Rapids, is organizing a small disc golf tournament to be held Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a doubles 18 hole tournament with 40 to 50 participants. There will be no profit made from the tournament and no special requests from Park staff. Geer presented a Hold Harmless application. McIntosh stated that more advance notice should have been given. Carolan asked Geer to notify Marion Independent School of the event. Park Board members had no objections to the event to be held October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Peyton reported that he will be working over the winter on signage for the course.

### 2014 Pool Report

Hummel presented the 2014 Pool Report. There were no accidents this summer at the pool. Attendance was down, however revenue remained steady compared to 2013 due to the increase in season pass fees. Additional amenities would help increase the appeal of the pool. The 2014 Pool Report was filed.

### Monthly Staff Report

The staff report was reviewed. The Amphitheater doors were installed and the final paperwork has been sent to close out the CAT Grant. Wise's daughter's wedding was at the Amphitheater and she said it was amazing. The lighting was beautiful and she received many positive comments about the venue. She gave kudos to the Amphitheater project.

Fencing at the pool is being moved to create more lounge area for guests.

The Tree Board was awarded the Sustainable Urban Forestry Training and Assistance Grant. The kickoff meeting will be scheduled in the next three months. In addition to the Tree Board and Parks staff, the City Council and Park Board members are asked to attend. The grant will focus on maintaining the urban canopy, preparing an emerald ash borer plan, tree identification, and community outreach (volunteers).

The round a bout at Tower Terrace Road and Alburnett Road is complete. Carolan said that VanMilligan and the Parks staff did a great job.

Boy Scout Jon Williams is constructing a sheltered park bench at Lowe Park for his Eagle Scout award. He is almost complete and doing a great job.

The restoration project at Faulkes Heritage Woods had 20 volunteers on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Rich Patterson will be putting together a plan for future maintenance.

The City is in the process of submitting reports for FEMA reimbursement from the June flooding. Carolan and VanMilligan have been pulling the needed information together. Typically there is an 80 to 90 percent reimbursement received in six months to one year.

The Parks department is working at the new Police station to establish turf grass in an area that was planted with prairie grass.

The recreation football program will be done in a couple of weeks. Registrations for the Little Chefs Cooking class are increasing; this program is offered four times during the school year for children ages 3 to 5 years old.

Cork N Canvas for adults and Kids N Canvas for kids are new programs being offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. This is open to all skill levels with step by step instructions provided to create a unique piece of art work. The first kids' class will be in mid-November, and the adults will be held in Mid-December.

The Arts Council will kick off Coffeehouse Nights on October 24<sup>th</sup> with Bob & Kristie Black performing.

ITC Midwest is requesting to expand the easement behind Creekbend Drive to 50' to allow a larger transmission line to be brought through. ITC will be presenting an agreement for City Council approval.

The vacant Utility II position will be posted internally until October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Linn County Extension Service is developing a parenting program and they are looking for space to hold the classes. Hummel stated that the department is trying to build a relationship with the Extension Service. McIntosh asked if there were conflicts with other rentals. Carolan

stated that fee paying rentals take priority over any non-fee rentals and that Safe Room is being considered in addition to the Lowe rooms. Wise said this would be an awesome program. Speral feels this is a good thing. Staff will come back with more information.

For next year Blue Zone Yoga is asking to be able to move yoga inside if it is raining. Carolan is concerned that will interfere with the paid rentals, and that a building supervisor won't be scheduled. The room will also need to be re-set up and cleaning be done before the scheduled rental.

The Fire Department is hosting a City Garage Sale October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> to get rid of surplus city equipment.

Grading into Lowe Park is being completed on the new Irish Drive section north of Tower Terrace Road.

The Parks Master Plan request for quotes will go out in January. There is \$70,000 budgeted in this fiscal year.

Wise asked about the cemetery issues discussed in September. Carolan has met with Rick's Lawn Care regarding this and feels that the issue has been resolved.

Kress asked staff for better information regarding usage for the Amphitheater. An end of the season report will be put together. McIntosh suggested putting the information in the city newsletter and on the website.

#### Board Discussion Time

Wise asked if the department will be considering installing more tennis courts in future years. Carolan said it will be looked at.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

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Kyle Martin, Secretary