

## **MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

January 14, 2014, 4:00 P.M.  
Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center

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

ABSENT: Terry Sperial

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

GUESTS: Patty Webster, Marion East Rotary; Kim Jass-Ramierz, YMCA/Marion East Rotary; Pat Quinn, Marion East Rotary; Nick Glew, Marion East Rotary; Sara Mentzer, Blue Zones Project Marion

### Minutes

Moved by Kress, seconded by McIntosh to approve the December 10, 2014, Park Board minutes. The minutes as presented reflect that Martin was in attendance, however, he was not. All in favor to approve the December 10, 2014, Park Board minutes with corrections, motion carried.

### Reports

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Martin to approve the December Financial Report. A new source of revenue, Cemetery monument fees, are at 90%; and revenues for rentals at the Arts & Environment Center are at 60% of the estimated amount. All in favor, motion carried.

The December Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted. The insurance claim reimbursement for damage at the Lowe Park Maintenance building was received in the amount of \$1,450. Ice melt used at various city facilities was purchased from Pace Supply for \$1,822.80. The report also reflects expenses for the new Cork & Canvass program, and Cemetery site openings from Don's Grave Digging.

### Public Input

None.

### Lowe Park Usage Request

Marion East Rotary members presented information about their annual Marathon for Shoes event being held on Sunday, June 14, 2015 benefitting the Shoes for Kids program. The Rotary is trying to expand the event for the many out of state people attending with an event on Saturday, June 13 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. that would incorporate the community and corridor. They would like an event with a live band, food vendors and a fenced in area for a beer tent and felt that Lowe Park grounds would be an ideal location. The Rotary asked for Park Board approval so that they may proceed with their plans. They would secure portable restrooms, a shuttle from Linn Mar to relieve the parking burden at Lowe Park, ensure cleanup was completed, and provide additional security as may be required by the Police Department. Hummel stated that there is a small graduation party renting the Hickory Room in the building. Nick Glew stated they would ensure adequate parking for the event and assist with parking during the rental. Kress asked about what happens if there is bad weather, and McIntosh asked where registration takes place. Glew indicated the event would be cancelled if there was bad weather and that registration takes place at Vernon Middle School. Martin asked about the estimated attendance to the Saturday event. Glew said

they would make it a ticketed event so that they could limit attendance. The rules for the alcohol permit in the park were reviewed. McIntosh asked if there would be activities for children. Pat Quinn said they are considering inflatable play areas, a juggler and other options. Wise expressed concern about the rental that is already booked for the Hickory Room, mainly with the parking issues, noise, or other potential interferences. Glew indicated they would work with the renter to address any concerns or requests so that both events could coincide in a positive manner. Moved by Wise, seconded by Kress to approve the request by the Marion East Rotary to utilize the outside grounds at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center on Saturday, June 13, 2015, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. for an event in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Marathon for Shoes event pending coordinating with the rental in the Hickory Room occurring at the same time. Martin stated that he was concerned with the interference of this event with the graduation rental in the Hickory Room. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Wise, seconded by McIntosh to waive the fee for the aforementioned Marion Rotary event. Roll call: Yeas: Wise, McIntosh; Nays: Martin, Kress. Motion failed.

#### Tobacco Free Parks

At the December meeting, the Board heard a presentation regarding Tobacco Free Parks made by Blue Zones Project Marion Community Program Manager Sara Mentzer and ASAC Certified Prevention Specialist Curt Wheeler. They appealed to the Board to implement Tobacco Free Parks. It currently is state mandated that all public used buildings and areas are smoke free. If the City were to adopt a Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance, the area would include any space within the property lines of the park. Mentzer offered to provide assistance with moving forward with the initiative. The difference between “tobacco free” and “nicotine free” were discussed. Kress feels that the parks should be nicotine free. Moved by Kress, seconded by Martin directing staff to develop policy prohibiting tobacco and other nicotine use in Marion City Parks. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Monthly Staff Report

The staff report was reviewed. Shoemaker & Haaland Engineering has completed some preliminary site surveying for the Donnelly Park bridge project. Design work should begin in February.

The Tree Board did not have a quorum for their November and December meetings.

Marion has been designated as Tree City USA Community for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year and received the Growth Award for 2014.

Budgets have been submitted to the City Manager. The Department submitted a full Urban Forestry Utility (UFU) budget and requested that the Utility II position in the Parks Department be refilled. In the current budget the position was moved to UFU. Some basic operating equipment for forestry operations was also requested.

Costs estimates were completed by the Engineering Department for the Lowe Park Irish Drive entrance. The roadway and two parking lots came in at \$483,089.07; there is \$200,000 earmarked from LOST and additional funding will be requested from the LOST committee. A playground in the same area is estimated at \$150,000.

The ice rink is filled and being used. The poor lighting conditions are being addressed.

The Adult Cork N Canvas class on January 15 has 20 people registered.

On February 14, WinterFest will be held at Thomas Park. This is a free program offered by the department and Marion Blue Zones Project.

#### Other

Carolan is working on a Memorandum of Agreement with the Master Gardeners. The Linn County Extension office agreed to share utility and other maintenance costs 50/50. The new agreement will be effective April 1, 2015.

The Parks and Recreation Department, Trees Forever, and Master Gardeners are working together on a tree orchard project at Lowe Park.

There will be a restoration project at Faulkes Woods lead by the Heritage Foundation and Trees Forever on Saturday, February 14.

Jacob Winters will be completing an Eagle Scout project in the flower beds at the Arts and Environment Center.

The news media has brought a lot of attention to sledding in city parks in Eastern Iowa and the liability to a City. Carolan stated that Iowa Code grants immunity to municipalities for liability from some recreational activities but sledding and trail areas are not included. On a daily basis operations staff are walking the sledding hill and ice rink at Thomas Park to inspect for safety issues. The conditions of the areas are being recorded.

Thank you notes from the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center and CROP Hunger Walk were received and filed.

#### Board Discussion Time

None.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

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Kyle Martin, Secretary