

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 14, 2014

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Basement Auditorium.
Roll Call: Members Present: Audrey Stowell, Beth Arneberg, Carmen Muenich, Rob Kiefer, Nate Seckora, and Dale Berg. Members Absent: Heidi Hoekstra.
Department Staff present: Dick Hebert, Tommy Eisenhauer.
2. Approval of September 9, 2014, Minutes: **Motion by Muenich/Arneberg to approve the September 9, 2014, minutes.** Motion carried.
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.
4. Discuss/consider Special Event Applications. None.
5. Discuss/Consider.
 - a. Proposed 2015 Department Budget. Dick Hebert distributes preliminary budget. He highlights that a bagger mower for Marshall is included in the equipment column. Dick indicates he is discussing sharing equipment with the Street Department. Both departments need a new loader.
Motion by Muenich/Berg to accept proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.
 - b. Department Projects Update. Dick reports that work is in progress at Buchanan Park. The handicapped fishing pier project that will be north of the Glen Loch boat landing has been progressing as well. This led to a discussion concerning the ice house and whether it was going to be preserved or demolished. If preserved, it may serve as a warming house or other purpose should trails be developed in that area at some point in the future. Discussed possibility of looking into grants from historical funds. Dick will contact the University to see if a student might be interested in looking at this for a project. The first payment from TTM has been received. Plan is for the playground equipment to be installed around Memorial Day. Dick also reports on the seal-coating at the skateboard park and the donation of the picnic table in memory of the Jaquishes that will be placed at Kell's Corner.
 - c. Discussing Improving Park Facilities Signage. Dick discussed having a sign study done. He will seek a cost proposal from Ayers. Study would include getting an inventory and recommending locations & styles for new signs, both in and out of the park.
 - d. Department Donation Accounts. Spreadsheet of donation accounts reviewed. Dick thanks Lynne Bauer, Lori Wedemeyer, & Katie Hutson for all of the work they did on the account allocation.

- e. 2014 Thorpe Foundation Funding Request. Dick presented his proposed request letter to the Foundation. There were some minor changes suggested. **Motion by Berg/Stowell to request a minimum of \$100,000 to support construction of a new Welcome Center in Irvine Park for the year 2014. Motion carried. Muenich abstained. Motion by Kiefer/Berg to approve sending the proposed letter with the suggested changes to the Foundation. The brochure will also be included. Motion carried.**

 - f. Directors Report. Dick reports that Irvine Park has done well in the Volume One polling: 1st place in the Best Free Activity, Best Place to Take Kids, and Best Public Park. It placed 3rd in Best Place to Go to Impress Out of Town Guests. Dick also reports that the intersection when you come down the hill off Jefferson to Bear Den Road is to be repaired and will be redesigned. Beth indicates that there is quite a dip on both sides of the bridge on Bear Den Road and this should be looked at as well. Dick also reports that the piece of land Rob Kiefer inquired about at the last meeting (between Grand & Columbia right on the creek) is City land but under the control of Public Works.

 - g. Recreation Report. Tommy Eisenhauer provides numbers for the winter adult leagues of men's basketball and women's & coed volleyball. Numbers are good.

 - h. Irvine Park Update. The lights for Christmas Village are starting to be hung. There are volunteer groups scheduled for the next couple of weekends. Staff is also closing/winterizing various facilities.

 - i. Zoo Update. The emu & zebra will leaving soon. Jennifer is working on getting the inside cages ready for the animals that are here for the winter.
- 6. Approve Claims. Claims and donation accounts were presented. **Motion by Muenich/Kiefer, to approve claims of \$96,336.46. Motion carried.**
 - 7. Board Member comments or concerns. None.
 - 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Muenich/Kiefer, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary