

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Rob Kiefer, Carmen Muenich, Beth Arneberg, Nate Seckora and Heidi Hoekstra. Absent: Audrey Stowell and Dale Berg.

Staff present: Dick Hebert and Joshua Kriesel.

2. Approval of February 14, 2017, Minutes: **Motion by Muenich/Hoekstra to approve February 14, 2017, minutes. Motion carried.**

3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.

Audrey Stowell and Dale Berg arrive at this time.

4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications:

- a. Dick Hebert indicates several special events have submitted renewal applications. They are The Past Passed Here, Stroll in the Park for Epilepsy, Chippewa Valley Chippewa Century Ride, Memorial Day Program, Chippewa Falls Farmers Market, Wine and Dine at Irvine, Chippewa River Industries Company Picnic, and Pure Water Days Riverfest. Dates, times, and locations were provided for each. Except for the Memorial Day Program and Chippewa Falls Farmers Market, all pay facility rental and provide insurance. Dick Hebert recommends approval of the applications. **Motion by Kiefer/Arneberg to approve event application renewals with past practices as presented. Motion carried.**

5. Discuss/Consider:

- a. Presentation of Tree Inventory by Bluestem Forestry Consulting. Kelli Tuttle of Bluestem Forestry Consulting presents her Urban Forestry Plan & Tree Inventory Analysis. This is in draft form, as it still needs DNR approval. An inventory of trees in the street rights-of-way and Irvine and Marshall Parks was completed. This inventory includes a total of 5,995 trees, 51 stumps and 906 planting sites. She indicated our staff was to be commended for the job they do maintaining trees. 1,202 or 20% of our trees are ash and susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer. 551 ash trees are recommended for removal due to safety reasons, condition, power lines overhead, and/or size. 651 trees are recommended to be targeted to be preserved. Trees can be preserved through chemical treatment at a 98% success rate and cost of \$75 per tree every other year. The Emerald Ash Borer disease makes the tree very brittle; it can take twice as long to clean up a dead tree than remove one. Further discussion included replacement options, specifics of treatment, and details of the disease. The City can take steps now to prepare for EAB's arrival. Kelli indicates as part of our plan we should consider allowing homeowners to treat trees in their boulevard. We should also think about how we want to direct homeowners to dispose of wood waste. Dick Hebert indicates that this inventory was part of a 50% grant,

which includes three parts: an inventory, a management/response plan, and outreach to the community. There was a concern about notification to homeowner regarding trees in their boulevard. The exact specifics are yet to be determined. Kelli will be presenting the draft plan to the City Council next week.

- b. Discuss Irvine Park Wayfinding Study. Phil Johnson of Ayres Associates presents where they are with the Study. The signs will be defined by group: entrance, directionally, facility and informational. They will be used to assist vehicular traffic and those using trails. Phil indicates that we may want to freshen up existing entrance signs and perhaps add lighting rather than replace. He has identified 107 signs that would potentially be placed in the park; the estimated the cost would be \$160,000. Any work done by staff would reduce this cost. This plan would set the framework for the entire City park system. Ayres will prepare a final report to be distributed before the May meeting. Before the May meeting, signs will be marked with ribbons (or otherwise) to give us an idea of which signs would be taken down and which would be replaced. The Board will need to make a decision regarding transformation to new sign system.
 - c. Director's Report. Dick Hebert reports that Ayres will be providing a new scope of services to include the walking bridge at the Erickson Park project at the April meeting. Dick also reports on the passing of Mark Schoebel; the family has reached out and will continue working with the Zoo. Dick also indicates that Reid Dachenbach has retired; Ben Ruf has been hired. Dick is now back working full time.
6. Approve Claims. Claims reviewed. **Motion by Muenich/Kiefer to approve claims of \$25,995.05. Motion carried.**
 7. Park Board Members' Concerns or Comments. Beth welcomes Dick back.
 8. Adjournment. **Motion by Muenich/Kiefer to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.**

Submitted by:

Dick Hebert, Director
Audrey Stowell, Secretary