

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
Monday, October 21, 2013

1. Call to order by Beth Arneberg at 6:00 p.m.  
Roll Call: Members Present: Dale Berg, Beth Arneberg, Carmen Muenich, Curt Stepanek, Heidi Hoekstra and Rob Kiefer. Absent: Audrey Stowell.  
Department Staff present: Dick Hebert.  
Others Present: Lynne Bauer, Jane Lardahl, and Mayor Hoffman.
2. Approval of September 16, 2013, Minutes: **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Curt Stepanek, to approve the September 16, 2013, minutes. Motion carried.**
3. Personal Appearances By Citizens. None.
4. Discuss / Consider Special Event Applications: None.
5. Discuss/Consider.
  - a. Thorpe Foundation Presentation. Bob Sworski gave presentation of the proposed welcome center and exhibits. Wayne Wille, James Colbert, Betsy Barnes, Jim Flanagan, and Carmen Muenich notified the Board of the very generous gift of Gerald and Evelyn Thorpe in setting up a trust for the benefit of Irvine Park and Marshall Playground. The trust is named the Gerald O. Thorpe and Evelyn M. Thorpe Foundation. The expected principal is \$3 million, and income from the trust is to be used for animal or bird replacements or the replacing or building of structures. By November 1 of each year, the Board will need to submit a request of expenditures to be made the following year. The expected annual income is \$100,000 to 150,000.

Audrey Stowell arrives at this time.

The Park Board will meet on Monday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m. in order to make a request to the Trustees before November 1.

- b. Discuss Future of Specific Neighborhood Parks. Discussion concerning selling neighborhood parks. It appears that Ball-Knight Park (on the west hill) and Simon Lyberg Park (on the south side) are the least-used parks and Simon Lyberg is in need of repair. There is a need for new playground equipment at existing parks, and there are other areas of the City that have a greater need for a park. Dick reported that he would need to make sure these parks were not affiliated with any DNR funding and they would need to be rezoned. **Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Rob Kiefer, to recommend the sale of Simon Lyberg Park on the condition that the proceeds are re-invested into the neighborhood park system and the property is rezoned for single-family dwelling. Motion amended by Dale Berg, seconded by Rob Kiefer, to authorize the director to contact realtors. Motion carried.**
- c. Music at the Irvine Park Bandshell – 2014 Summer Program. Steve Szydel contacted Dick concerning the 2014 summer program for music at the bandshell on Sunday afternoons. Dick would like the line-up to be in place

soon enough so that it can be marketed better. After discussion, **motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Rob Kiefer, to invest \$250.00 into the 2014 Summer Music at Irvine Park Bandshell program. Motion carried.**

- d. Department Budget. Dick reports that the council will be resolving health insurance and other issues before dealing with individual department budgets. Dick will keep us apprised of developments.
  - e. Director Report. Discussion about recognizing donors for the welcome center / small mammal / aviary center. A subcommittee will meet to address this. The Park Board will be made aware of the subcommittee's meeting times. Dick reports on the bison virus and deaths. Dick reports that the bathrooms for the lower level are expected to be delivered around November 12. The last activity has been held at Casper Park for the year, so staff is working on closing that park down for the season.
6. Approve Claims. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Heidi Hoekstra, to approve claims of \$62,264.80. Motion passed.**
  7. Board Member comments or concerns. Discussion about addressing horses in the park, placement of memorial benches, and keeping Friends of Irvine Park Zoo updated with regard to the small mammal exhibits building.
  8. Adjournment. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Rob Kiefer, to adjourn at 7:59. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:

Dick Hebert and  
Audrey Stowell, Secretary