

**WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, March 16, 2023**

Members of the public wishing to participate telephonically, could do so by calling: 515-207-8241 and entering Conference ID: 189 093 379#

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order in the City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. by presiding Chair Miller.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Joe Hrdlicka <i>Secretary</i>	Jim Miller <i>Chair</i>	Aaron Sewell	Linda Lowe <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Present	X	X arrived at 5:31pm	X		

Commission	Melissa Clarke-Wharff	Kathleen Till Stange			
Present	X	X			

Staff & Council	Sally Ortgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Ryan Penning <i>Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Christina Tate <i>Secretary</i>	Greg Hudson <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X	X	X	X	

On Item 1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Schebel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Clark-Wharff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

None.

On Item 3. 3. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2023 Meeting

Schebel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Clark-Wharff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4 Old Business

None.

New Business

On Item 5A. – Discussion – Cell Towers in Parks

Ortgies stated that there was a recent request from a cell company to install a cell tower in Jordan Creek Park near the rugby fields located at 39th and EP True Parkway. The City intends to formalize the process for cell tower installation which would involve input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board when the requested location falls within a park. Ortgies suggested that a cell tower installed near the RecPlex may seem more appropriate and could potentially benefit from the revenue. However, a cell tower located in the middle of a neighborhood park may need further consideration by the Board. Hrdlicka stated that he has also received calls previously about this issue and agrees that cell tower locations should be near similar infrastructure such as powerlines and wires. Schebel added that if the towers are placed in the sightline of people’s residences, there may be opposition. A new procedure/policy will be addressed in future meetings.

On Item 5B. – Motion – Approval of Alternate Parkland Dedication Plan

1. The Pines at Glen Oaks

Alvarez stated that the developer plans to build 33 townhome units located at the northeast corner of the Glen Oaks community which equates to .33 acres of parkland dedication. Because this area is served by the fully

established Quail Cove Park, it is recommended that the parkland requirements be fulfilled within their own site. The proposed alternate plan consists of .32 acres of greenway and .18 of parkland. The Facilities Committee agreed that this would be sufficient to cover the dedication requirements.

Till Stange moved to approve the Alternate Parkland Dedication Plan as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Alvarez discussed the results of the Polk County Deer Public Hunting program designed to control the deer population in the metro. There were six harvests this year which was slightly down from last year. The three public hunting locations in West Des Moines include Southwoods Park, Raccoon River Park, and the Raccoon River Greenway near 1st Street.

Plans for the 2023 Asphalt Trail Renovation Program will go out to bid in April. These areas will include the section of Jordan Creek Trail west of 60th Street, Westridge Trail starting at EP True Parkway, and Willow Springs Park trail loop. The project is anticipated to start this summer.

There was a discussion to create a master plan study for the section along the Raccoon River Greenway on 1st Street. Input is requested from stakeholders and the public regarding river access, boat launch, and parking lot. Feedback from this study will be presented to the Board.

Alvarez updated the Board on staff recruitment. Two candidates for Park Planner have been certified and an offer has been extended. Currently, five Park Attendant positions have been filled with only two openings remaining.

On Item 6B. Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning provided staffing updates. Laura Murphy, Superintendent of Recreation, will start on March 27th. The Naturalist position has been filled by Jess Lancial and she will begin at the end of May. Currently, there are 111 lifeguard positions filled which is an improvement from last year. The aquatic centers are scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend.

Registration for the Spring/Summer programs just opened and showed an increase in revenue from last year.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Ortgies provided an update on the results of the CIP requests. All were approved except for the last four projects on the list including the shelter and restroom facility at Hidden Point Park, the boat locker phase 3 in Raccoon River Park, and pickleball courts at Scenic Valley Park and Wild Rose Park. The Athene Pedestrian Bridge bid came in \$1.2 million over the engineer's estimated cost which may be due to construction access, steel costs, and earthwork. To make up the cost difference, \$400,000 from the local option sales tax slated for the Marathon Loop Sugar Creek Greenway Phase 2 Trail project, will now be allocated for the pedestrian bridge. Fundraising efforts for the bridge have been successful and are just short of the \$3 million dollar goal. Karen Swalwell pledged \$60,000 in memory of Rick Swalwell. For this donation, there will be signage stating Raccoon River Park Plaza in Memory of Rick Swalwell. There are currently three grant applications including the Prairie Meadows Grant, the Wellmark Foundation Grant, and the Greater Iowa Credit Union Grant for a total potential funding of \$500,000.

