

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, May 18, 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, May 18, 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	X	X joined virtually at 5:45p.m.	X

Commission	Melissa Clarke-Wharff	Kathleen Till Stange
Present	X	X

Staff & Council	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Marco Alvarez <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Laura Murphy <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Shayne Ratcliff <i>General Manager of RecPlex</i>	Miranda Kurtt <i>Administrative Secretary</i>
Present	X	X	X		X
Staff & Council	Greg Hudson <i>Council Liaison</i>				
Present	X				

On Item 1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Schebel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Till Stange seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

None.

On Item 3. 3. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2023, Meeting

Schebel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Lowe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4 Old Business

None.

New Business

On Item 5A. – Presentation – Annual Reports

1. West Des Moines Soccer Club

Adam Schneiders, Director of Properties for the West Des Moines Soccer Club provided an update on their organization. All the staff and coaches are parent volunteers. The organization has been operating since 1986 serving youth ages three to nineteen. They have two complexes that they maintain: Raccoon River Park Soccer Complex that is leased from the City of West Des Moines and Hidden Valley Soccer Complex which they own. The organization is requesting that security monitor dogs not being on leashes. Lowe questioned if the fields are being used appropriately based on size. Schneiders stated that the public is utilizing the fields correctly.

2. Heartland Cricket League

Adarsh Eppili, Chairman of Heartland Cricket League, provided an update on their organization. The league has been playing since 1983. This league uses the hard ball and is more competitive than the Iowa Premier League and has seen continued growth. They have two practice fields: Wilson Park and Valley View Park. They requested the pitch at Valley View Park be replaced due to a safety hazard issue. The league has requested practice batting cages in 2020 potentially at Valley View Park.

3. West Des Moines Girls Softball Association

Kris Schmidt from West Des Moines Softball provided an update on their organization. They had over 29,000 visitors to Holiday Park in 2022 with an approximate financial impact of \$4 million for the city. This organization is known for their recreation teams with over 400 youth registering for this season. They provided a Five-Year Plan Forecast that still needs the West Des Moines Girls Softball Association Board approval. The city will be providing field lighting funding that will be used in conjunction with a private donation. Clark-Wharff questioned the number of scholarships that were provided. Schmidt stated there were 56 last year and they have never turned down a request for a scholarship. Lowe questioned if participants are West Des Moines residents and Schmidt stated they are in the West Des Moines School District.

4. Iowa Premier League (Cricket)

Avavind Manadi, President of Iowa Premier Cricket League, provided an update on their organization. The league has approximately 500 families playing and 14 teams and is organized by volunteers. This league is played with a tennis ball which provides the opportunity for people to try cricket with the potential of less injuries. They provide the equipment and would like to have a storage space at Wilson Park and Valley View Park. Manadi stated it is getting hard to find practice facilities for tennis ball and hard ball leagues. Penning questioned if there are other communities that have cricket pitches and Manadi stated there are not. The organization would like to have contacts for other communities. Lowe questioned what size of storage facility would be needed.

On Item 5B. – Motion – Approval of Film and Photography Policy

Penning stated that the department is receiving more requests to use city property for commercial use. This policy will provide the department knowledge of what is occurring in the parks and facilities. There was discussion on if there is a penalty if a permit is not received and there is not. Till Stange questioned if situations such as senior or family photos would apply to this policy, and they do not.

Hrdlicka moved to approve the Film and Photography Policy as presented. Clark-Wharff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Alvarez stated the weather has affected the construction access at Raccoon River Park trail for the bridge. A section will be closed for the aggregate trail realignment. The playground equipment for the Raccoon River Park Playground Project has been delivered with anticipated completion this fall. Willow Springs Park, Peony Park, and Scenic Valley Park playgrounds are now open. The swings will need to be replaced at Willow Springs Park causing that area to be closed for a few days. The Raccoon River Greenway Master Plan has completed the second round of focus groups. The design of Holiday Park Baseball Renovation Phase Eight Project was awarded. This is for the improvement of the parking lot and entry features.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy stated that the aquatics centers pools have been filled. There have been four payroll training with 140 staff members. The Iowa Cancer Consortium, in partnership with Iowa Department of Health and Human

Services, provided three gallons of Banana Boat SPF 50 Sunscreen to our aquatic centers. The department is organizing outdoor pickleball leagues with 61 teams currently registered. Park Palooza is on June 3 with the Mayor's Bike Ride. The Little Art Mart has been completed. The Jamie Hurd Amphitheater's season will be starting the Moonlite Movies series and Summer Sundaze on June 2 and June 4. Ratcliffe, Alvarez, and Murphy will be at Valley High School to provide information about our department and profession as part of Valley's Public and Human Services Pathways Lunch and Learn.

On Item 6C. RecPlex General Manager

Ratcliff stated that the RecPlex is preparing for summer programs starting in June. They will be hosting Junior Olympics, National Veteran's Golden Age Tournament, Iowa State University Meet the Coaches, State High School E-sports Tournament, Iowa Homeschool Convention, and Buccaneers' Welcome Camp.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning commented that the staff are greatly appreciated. The Athene Bridge Groundbreaking Event is Monday, July 10. Invitations were sent to donors, Board members, and public officials. The Public Art Committee met to review the final proposal for the sensory wall at Raccoon River Park. The Friends of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Committee will have a strategic meeting in June. They are seeking new members. The Food and Beverage Coordinator position received 21 applicants with eight finalists. The 3-Meter platform addition at Valley View Aquatics Center will be installed by July.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Sewell questioned when the Ice Cream Socials dates. Penning provided the dates.

On Item 8: Receive, File and/or Refer:

A. City Council Communications

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| May 1, 2023 | Public Hearing – 2023 Asphalt Trail Renovation Project |
| | 1. Resolution – Approval of Plans and Specifications |
| | 2. Motion – Receive and File Report of Bids |
| | 3. Resolution – Approve Contract |
| May 15, 2023 | Motion – Approval of MidAmerican Energy RecPlex Shade Punch List Contract |
| May 15, 2023 | Motion – Approval of Change Order #2 – Valley View Aquatic Center Toddler Slide and 3-Metter Diving Improvements |
| May 15, 2023 | Motion – Approval of Professional Services Agreement – Holiday Park Baseball Field Phase 9 – Maintenance Area, Parking Lot and Entry Improvements |
| May 15, 2023 | Proclamation – Bike Month – May 2023 |
| May 15, 2023 | Proclamation – Kids to Parks Day – May 20, 2023 |

B. Parks CIP Projects Status

Hrdlicka moved to adjourn the meeting. Till Stange seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Kurtt
Administrative Secretary

Date

ATTEST:



Joe Hrdlicka
Secretary



Date