

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, July 18, 2024

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 at Willow Springs Park on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 5:29 p.m. by presiding Chair Miller.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Joe Hrdlicka	Jim Miller <i>Chair</i>	Aaron Sewell	Linda Lowe <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Present			X	X	X

Commission	Melissa Clarke-Wharff <i>Secretary</i>	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>Executive Assistant to Director</i>
Present	X	X	X	X	X

Staff & Council	Greg Hudson <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	

On Item 1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

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

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

None.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2024, Meeting

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

On Item 4 Old Business

None.

New Business

On Item 5A. – Motion - Approval of Alternate Plan for Parkland Dedication

1. The Lancaster

Alvarez stated that The Lancaster, a proposed apartment development located on the 800 block of South 88th Street, is within a ¾ mile service area of a future neighborhood park. The developer has chosen to provide parkland dedication on-site that includes paved walking paths, additional landscaping, seating areas, site furniture, two pickleball courts, and a dog park. These amenities will not be accessible to the public. Schebel suggested adding sound barriers and the developers seemed receptive.

Clarke-Wharff moved to approve the Alternate Parkland Dedication Plan – The Lancaster as presented. Till Stange seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

On Item 6A. Superintendent of Parks

Alvarez stated that the Crossroads Park, Jaycee Park, and Kiwanis Park playground renovations are moving on schedule with completion this fall. The consultant for the design of Ashawa Park and Wild Rose Park playground renovations has been approved. Clark-Wharff stated that Brookview Elementary has many special needs students and should be considered when designing Wild Rose Park. Till Stange stated the rose bushes need maintenance at Wild Rose Park. The neighborhood residents are invited to a public meeting to provide their input on the design. The Fourth of July holiday saw a large usage of the parks, and some had incidents of vandalism. Board members stated the fireworks were wonderful. The snow fencing around the location of the fireworks deployment area deterred pedestrians from entering the area. The Huston Cemetery project has been delayed due to land ownership issues. Fencing, arches, and interpretive signage will be added.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Murphy stated the USA Triathlon took place this past weekend at Raccoon River Park. The event impacted the park throughout the weekend; and highlighted our park to local, regional, and national users. The staff completed interviews for the Recreation Program/Facility Supervisor position and the candidate list will go to Civil Service on July 25 for review and approval. The Program Guide hit houses this week, and registration for Fall 2024 is August 6. The half-price pool passes started on July 15. The Summer Sundaze will occur each week through mid-September. The Moonlit Movies on Friday, July 19, is Mrs. Doubtfire.

On Item 6C. RecPlex General Manager

Ratcliff stated the second sheet of ice has been installed. Numerous day camps are making the daytime very busy with more steady, calmer evenings. With the decrease of outside groups in the building, this is a great time to do maintenance projects. The youth hockey tryouts will occur in August. September is a lull time because most leagues have not started yet. An agreement with Iowa Phenom Basketball has been finalized. This group will utilize the basketball court times lost as the current agreement with All Iowa Attack ends in March 2025. A new protective curtain has been installed along with protective netting. The planning continues with the installation of a third rink.

On Item 6C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that the parade route was shortened, and the department received comments against the decision. This decision was made in collaboration with numerous departments' input. There was controversy with Furry Friends regarding the fireworks. Overall, the changes to the parade route and fireworks were positively received. The city is wrapping up the compensation study of the various positions within the city. Legacy Woods demolition and backfilling are complete. The concessions' gross revenue is up 150% over last year.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Clarke-Wharff questioned if the Athene Pedestrian Bridge grand opening has been scheduled. Alvarez stated it would not be determined until closer to the completion date. Clarke-Wharff asked if a lighted crosswalk sign could be added near Liberty Landing Complex, housing for special needs residents, located

at 88th Street and Coachlight Drive. This would assist residents in getting to Valley View Park. Penning and Alvarez stated they would take this to the Engineering Department.

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

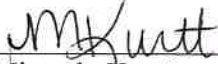
A. City Council Communications

July 17, 2024 Motion – Approval of Professional Services Agreement – Scenic Valley Park Courts and Trail Improvements

B. Parks CIP Projects Status

Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting. Clarke-Wharff seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 _____ 8-16-24
Miranda Kurtt Date

Executive Assistant to Director

ATTEST:  _____ 8/16/24
Melissa Clarke-Wharff Date
Secretary

