

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, April 18, 2024; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - March 2024 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
 - A. Project Update-Presentation
- VI. Staff Reports
 - A. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
 - B. Director's Report
 - April Staff Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
 - A. May 16, 2024, City Hall Council Chambers, 4:30pm
- IX. Adjournment



Parks and Recreation Advisory March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Coiner, Dasso, Hu, Kefauver, Meyer, Peterson, Schertz, Shareef and Wittemeyer

Staff Present: Chad Dyson, Billy Fisher, Becca Niles, Amanda Randerson and Theresa Hauman

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4th Street

Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtfHi5rZQUw>

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes presented by Wittemeyer, seconded by Schertz. Motion Passes 8-0

Public with Comment:

- Matthew, Winsor Crest Resident. Proposed park plan: Playground, dog park, big field, parking, and natural grass area. Residents don't have greenspace within a safe walking distance.
- Brian, Winsor Crest Resident. Requests staff to look at the long term view not short term. This is the last change to have land set aside for the neighbors.
- Bruce, Winsor Crest Resident. Was the land sold? Will the land need to be re-zoned? Director Dyson: Land is not sold and yes, the land will need to be re-zoned from ag land to residential. At this time no developers are working with City staff on a rezoning request.
- Sharron, Winsor Crest Resident. We do have a private member park like area but only allows 150 residents to utilize the areas. My family waited 3 years to gain access.
- Jerry, Winsor Crest Resident. Getting the green space is once in a life time opportunity, once it's gone it's gone. Iowa has the lowest greenspace per capita. I don't have kids but I fully support this opportunity.

Old Business:

- **Winsor Crest**-Director update: The comments of the Winsor Crest residence are accurate and staff support the need for a park in this area. The Parks masterplan: "service area" section, clearly shows a deficiency of park space in this area. Further support comes from the "strengths and needs" section of the master plan, which outlines the need for neighborhood parks in the newer and developing areas of our city. IE anywhere north of Locust Street. National Park and Recreation standards also show our deficiencies in park land within our city, further supporting the neighborhoods request.
 - Council question:
 - Can the Parks department afford to take on the additional acreage and maintain the area?
 - Based on our newest park, Jersey Farms, it takes 100 hours to maintain which equates to \$5500. Staff feels we can take on this greenspace with minimal impact on operations.



- This is a large acreage, 20 acres, would it be a community park?
 - There is a potential to use 5-10 acres for a neighborhood park and then use the rest of the area as a potential site for Junior Theatre.
- Motion to recommend moving forward by Kefauver, 2nd by Coiner. Passes 8-0

New Business:

- **FY25 Park Development Program- Final Slate:** Director Dyson presented the final slate of projects for the FY25 funding based on Advisory Board and City Council Surveys:
 - Automated Cleaner
 - Aquatics Slide Restoration
 - Credit Island Restroom
 - Golf Building Cover Replacement
 - Golf Cart Path Replacement
 - Operations Centennial Dog Park Flex Area
 - Golf Ventrac Boom Mower Attachments
 - Rivers Edge Ice Skate Sharpening Machine
 - Golf Turf Gator Vehicles
 - Rivers Edge Overhead Door Replacement
 - Red Hawk Business/ Entrance Sign
 - Fejervary Holiday Lights Expansion

Motion to approve the slate by Schertz, 2nd by Coiner. Motion Passes 8-0

Staff Report: (see video for details)

- See written staff report
- Director Report-Verbal
- RIC Report- Verbal

Adjournment: 5:30 pm Motion to adjourn by Meyer, seconded by Wittemeyer. Motion Passes 8-0

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation
Contact Info: |

Action / Date
4/18/2024

Subject:
Project Update-Presentation

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
None

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Department: Parks and Recreation
Contact Info: |

Action / Date
4/18/2024

Subject:
April Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 04-2024 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
April 2024
Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

Administrative Services

- Jordan Raso has joined the AmeriCorps program staff as the new Program Manager. Her primary focus will be on recruiting new members and development of recruitment tools and materials.
- On Tuesday, April 16 Parks and Recreation staff along with staff from four other agencies (Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Common Chord, Davenport Community School District, and Putnam Museum and Science Center) attended an AmeriCorps-St. Ambrose University sponsored recruitment event.
- The final phase of the rollout for Rec Desk will be completed by the end of April. Once the Point-of-Sale system has been created, all customer transactions will be in one system.
- At the end of April, Kathy Lafrenz, long time employee and Senior Clerk, will be retiring. The position will be transitioning into a full time position as of April 29. An internal employee will be promoting into this position which has allowed job shadowing with the goal of easy this transition during our peak hiring season.

Park Operations

- Staff has completed inspections of 40 playgrounds, looking for loose or failing hardware or safety issues. Hardware pieces have been replaced in various parks.
- Over 30 seasonal staff members have been on-boarded and completed orientation and training.
- Cork Hill playground has been installed, mulched, and is open for the public to enjoy.
- Water meters have been installed at 22 park locations. Staff continues to open water amenities daily with a goal of being completely open May 1.
- Horticulture staff has been diligently working on annual flowers, producing over 13,000 flowers.
- Fruits of our staff's labor are being seen at Vander Veer Botanical Park as nearly 26,000 tulips and daffodils are currently blooming. Once spent, staff will be busy removing and re-planting annuals.

- The Davenport Soccer Complex has been opened. All fields have been rotated, painted, and leagues have started utilizing the area.
- Staff has been busy assembling picnic tables to be installed in various park locations.
- The break rooms at Fejervary and Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Centers have been painted and prepared for the summer season.
- Staff has repaired the shelter roof at the LeClaire Park bandshell area.
- 18 story walk monuments have been installed at Lafayette Park in partnership with the Davenport Public Library.
- Limestone boulders have been placed along the north fence line of the City Cemetery to prevent vehicles from driving through damaging grave stones.
- Staff has started our 10-day cycle of mowing and grounds maintenance in each park and various areas the Parks Department is responsible.

Recreation

- Staff can confidently say we have hired enough staff to fully open both aquatic centers 7 days a week this summer.
- Scott County Special Olympics teams are going strong. There are 12 swimmers advancing to the state competition. Bocce Ball began this week, and staff are waiting for results from the track area games. The state competitions are May 16-18 at Iowa State in Ames.
- Spring break performing arts camp had 56 participants performing their own original show and musical theatre numbers at the end of the week. The camp had excellent public feedback for the first camp led by the new Camps and Workshop Coordinator, Cayla Odendahl.
 - Cayla has also expanded outreach workshops throughout the community at the following organizations: McKinley Stepping Stones, LeClaire Homeschool Association, LEAD Rock Island Schools Eugene Fields, and Trinity Lutheran Day Camp.
- Staff has registered over 850 spring soccer registrations, with many growing for the younger age groups.
- Staff has had to postpone the start of the season for adult softball leagues until at least April 28 at Lindsay field due to the city-wide sewer infrastructure project work taking place in the field.
- Taylor Schneider, the Environmental Education Programmer, partnered with the High Road School of the Quad Cities (a specialized education services facility) and wrapped over

50 red oaks and took a tour of the conservatory and greenhouses.

- Staff has processed over \$2500.00 in youth scholarship applications to attend recreation classes with an additional 20+ Summer Kids Passes scholarship applications.
- Staff is looking to finalize a new 3-year agreement with the Quad City Hockey Association from August 2024-April of 2027. With the addition of the second sheet of ice all next season, staff has a goal of being able to put the public skate schedule in the fall/winter catalog.

Golf Operations

- All three golf courses are substantially ahead of pace of the 2023 season in golf rounds and revenues. Most of this due to starting a month early this spring.
- Golf Courses have received much needed spring rains and are in great shape heading into late April 2024.
- Golf is now in full mowing routine with new and returning staff coming on as the workload increases.
- Emeis Clubhouse Fund Raising promotion is progressing towards a spring release.
- Emeis Golf Course has had a string of golf carts stolen or vandalized this early season. Police patrols and security measures are being evaluated and established, as well as ongoing investigation, in order to resolve as soon as possible.

Communication Updates

- Community Events
 - **Earth Day Clean Up** Saturday, 4/20 | 1-4PM | Duck Creek Park
 - **Arbor Day Tree Giveaway** Wednesday, 4/24 | 11AM-Until trees are gone | Vander Veer Enabling Garden
 - **Friends of Vander Veer Spring Plant Sale** Friday-Sunday, 4/26-4/28 | Times vary by day | Vander Veer Conservatory
 - **Spring Formal** Sunday, 4/28 | 4:30-8:30PM | MVFG - Starlite Ballroom
 - **Picnic in the Park** 1st Fridays, 5/3, 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6 | 11AM-1PM | Vander Veer Botanical Park Great Lawn
 - **Fejervary Family Fun Days** 3rd Saturdays, 5/18, 6/15, 8/17, 9/21 | 12-3PM | Fejervary Learning Center
- Recreation Programs
 - **Drop In Open Gym** 1st Friday of the Month | 4-5:30PM | Roosevelt Community Center
 - **Special Olympics-Summer Games Prep-Bocce Ball** Wednesdays, 4/10-5/8 | 4:30-5:30PM | Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center - Bocce Ball Courts

- **Adult Softball Leagues-Spring** Sundays & Tuesday/Thursdays, 4/14-6/19 | Times vary by day | Lindsay Park
- **Adult Softball Leagues-Spring Adult Softball Leagues-Spring** Sundays & Tuesday/Thursdays, 4/14-6/19 | Times vary by day | Lindsay Park
- **Bocce Ball Summer Play** Wednesdays, 5/1-7/31 | 9AM | Red Hawk Golf Course-Bocce Ball Courts
- **My Play Club** Saturday, 5/4 | 10-11:30AM | Gabe's All Inclusive Play Village @ Vander Veer Botanical Park
- **Coffee & Cuttings** Saturday, 5/4 & Tuesday, 5/7 | 10-10:30AM | Vander Veer Conservatory
- **Herbal Garden for Mom** Thursday, 5/9 | 5-6PM | Vander Veer Conservatory
- **Creative Native** Wednesdays, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12 | 3-4PM | Vander Veer Conservatory
- **QC Senior Olympics 2024** Thursday-Monday, 5/27-6/1 | Times vary | Locations Vary
- **Up Close and Plantable** Fridays, 5/29, 6/28, 7/26, 8/30, 9/27 | 4-6PM | Sunderbruch Park
- Notable Dates
 - **River Bandits City of Davenport Night**
 - Friday, 5/31 | Modern Woodman Park
 - **Hit the Trails National Celebration Dates**
 - National Ride A Bike Day | Sunday, 5/5
 - Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day | Wednesday, 5/8
 - Bike to Work Week | Monday-Friday, 5/13-5/17
 - Bike to Work Day | Friday, 5/17