

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Wednesday, January 10, 2018, Decorah City Hall

Chairman Rich Gaard opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Board members present included Jeff O’Gara, Kathy Bakken and Cindy Albers. Staff present included Scott Ihde, Robin Sailor and Andy Nimrod. Visitors included City Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Jason Walker, Janelle Pavlovec, Mary Lewis, and Peter and Judy van der Linden.

Gaard moved the Forestry Report on the Carlson property to the beginning of the meeting and introduced Jason Walker, Regional Forester with the Iowa DNR, who had walked the property about a year ago. Walker presented his five-page report including maps of the property, breaking down the forested part of the property into three different segments. Walker was pleasantly surprised with the quality of timber in parts of the property, and noted the 110 acres is an incredible gift to the City’s Park System by the Carlsons. Walker told the Board that the regeneration of oak should always be a main objective of any forestry plan. He discussed how this could be accomplished on two of the three wooded areas through proper management. The presence of invasive species, mainly buckthorn at that site, create the biggest management problem moving forward. Walker concluded by noting the overall health of the woodlands was good and with some suggested forest management, park staff should be able to improve wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and maintain a very nice forest.

O’Gara motioned to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2017 meeting, Bakken seconded and all approved.

Mary Lewis, representing Friends of the Parks, shared parts of an email from Alan Branhagen, formerly of Decorah, regarding the reconstruction of Dug Road Trail and his concerns on how restoration should be handled. Nimrod reported that he had also received excerpts from Branhagen’s email and had shared them with City Engineer Lindsay Erdman who is working with FEMA officials on the reconstruction plan.

Nimrod reported that the City’s budget workshop has been scheduled for January 31, 2018.

The Board reviewed financial annual reports from the campground, the swimming pool and the recreation department. The reports will be part of the annual presentation for the council on February 5.

It was determined that there would not be a quorum at the regularly scheduled February Board meeting date so it was determined that the next meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 7:00pm, City Hall. O’Gara motioned to adjourn, Albers seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation