

**MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**7:00pm, Thursday, February 8, 2018, Decorah City Hall**

*Chairman Rich Gaard called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, Jeff O’Gara and Shirley Vermace answered role. Others in attendance included Director, Andy Nimrod and Ellen Macdonald from Friends of Decorah’s Parks.*

*O’Gara made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 Board meeting, Vermace seconded and all approved.*

*Vermace motioned to appoint Gaard as Board Chair and Albers as Vice Chair, O’Gara seconded, all approved.*

*Nimrod updated the Board on Dug Road reconstruction. JB Holland Construction has been working when weather conditions allow, but this season has been especially unpredictable. Nimrod also reported he had a conversation with City Engineer Erdman at the February 5 City Council meeting, and Erdman informed him that an engineer from Braun Engineering would be on site this week to make some decisions regarding construction. Nimrod also updated the Board on restoration planning that was taking place with local botanists. Initial plans are centered on stabilizing the slope and then attempting to create an environment in which native plants will begin to come back. Nimrod presented a letter from Peter van der Linden that van der Linden had shared with the 28E Trail Committee in January. The group has also contacted the firm, Driftless Land Stewardship, for advice on restoration efforts. All restoration planning hinges on the timing of the completion of the construction and at this point it is still too early to tell when that might be.*

*Nimrod reported that the City’s Budget Workshop had gone well and a splashpad had been discussed with the Council. The Park-Rec. Board looked at long term project lists from Park-Rec. staff. Board members took copies of these lists with them for further study in preparation for discussion at the March Park-Rec. Board meeting.*

*The Board discussed ways to generate more income on the Carlson Property to use for park development. The Board asked Nimrod to work with parks staff to create a plan to generate income by allowing farming on the property for a period of time. They asked that the plan be presented at the March Park-Rec. Board Meeting.*

*The March Board meeting will be 7:00pm, March 15. Vermace motioned to adjourn, Gaard seconded, all approved.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Andy Nimrod  
Director  
Decorah Parks and Recreation*