

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

**7:00pm, Thursday, July 19, 2018, Decorah City Hall**

*Attendance: Board members: Rich Gaard, Cindy Albers, Jeff O’Gara, Shirley Vermace and Kathy Bakken.*

*Staff: Andy Nimrod. Visitors: Lorraine Borowski, Paul Scott and Janelle Pavlovec.*

*Chairman Gaard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.*

*Public comment: Janelle Pavlovec reported that Fred Biermann’s grave in Phelps Cemetery didn’t have a flag holder like many veterans. She noted this is usually taken care of by family, but since Mr. Biermann didn’t have any family she thought it would be nice if this was taken care of by the Parks and Recreation Board. Fred Biermann was one of the Decorah Parks System’s biggest supporters and gave Decorah many of its parks. Pavlovec also noted the former fountain in front of City Hall was given as a gift to the City in honor of Biermann and that a marker remains by the City Hall entrance. The Board requested that Nimrod look into getting a flag holder at the grave site.*

*Albers motioned to approve the minutes, O’Gara seconded, all approved.*

*Director Nimrod reported that Decorah had been selected as one of the communities in the Great Places Grant application. The next round of the application is due August 1 and will involve applying for specific projects. There will be three parts to the grant application and they have been narrowed down to the following:*

- 1. Winneshiek County Conservation will be applying for a grant to help with bridge work on the Dry Run Trail.*
- 2. Decorah Parks and Recreation will be applying for a grant to work with the historical rock work around the parks.*
- 3. Decorah Parks and Recreation will be applying for a grant to help more at Dunning’s Spring Park.*

*All of these applications will be submitted by Northeast Iowa RC&D. One of the applications will be selected.*

*Vermace updated the Board on the Dog Park. The Park opened July 3 and has been busy. The Dog Park Committee has already started raising money for more potential improvements to the park including improved parking, water and more shade. Nimrod reported there will be a fall tree planting at the park as part of a Rockwell Collins grant. Park crews needed to wait for the fencing to be complete before planting the trees.*

*Parks Department: Vermace requested parks staff consider adding a 220-electrical power receptacle to Wayside for future festivals that may be held there like the Pulpit to Pulpit Run that took place July 4.*

*Nimrod reported he had walked the Carlson property with Peter van der Linden, a retired biologist, and Brian Fuhrmann and Steve Pasche of Decorah Human Powered Trails to look at a trail consideration. The meeting went well and a consensus was made on where the trail should run.*

*Park crews continue to be busy cleaning up after storm damage and mowing grass. It appears that Ted Wilson will not be ready to start at Dunning's Spring until late August or early September.*

*The Board discussed how to handle naming requests of parks. The Board directed Nimrod to check with city administration to see if they had any recommendations and report back at the August meeting.*

*Recreation Department update: This week is the last full week of recreation programs for the summer. There were 970 total participants in this year's summer programs. This is a 5.8% increase from 2017. A special thanks to the many volunteers that help with some of the summer programs, ie: coach pitch and tee ball parent volunteer coaches, Decorah Human Powered Trails and Decorah Bicycle volunteer who lead the mountain biking program, and many other individuals that help in various capacities throughout the summer.*

*The Fair Fun Run was held last Saturday, July 14. 125 individuals participated in this event, which is a 6.8% increase from the previous year. The annual middle school pool party will be held Friday, August 3, 8:30-10:30 pm and is sponsored by CREW.*

*Campground report: Last week's storm damaged a number of vehicles and campers at the campground, luckily no one was hurt.*

*The campground continues to be at capacity every weekend. The same day reservations and limited reservations continue to be well received by the campers.*

*The next meeting of the Decorah Parks and Recreation Board was set for August 16, 2018, 7:00 pm, in the City Council Chambers. Albers motioned to adjourn, O'Gara seconded, all approved.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Andy Nimrod*

*Director*

*Decorah Parks and Recreation*