

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, August 23, 2018, Decorah City Hall

Attendance: Board members: Rich Gaard, Jeff O’Gara, Shirley Vermace and Kathy Bakken. Staff: Andy Nimrod. Visitor: Ellen Macdonald.

Chairman Gaard opened the meeting at 7:04pm, there was no public comment. O’Gara motioned to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2018 meeting, Bakken seconded and all approved.

The Board discussed partnering with Winneshiek County Conservation on purchasing a share of a trail counter system. Nimrod shared cost options with the Board and information provided from Upper Explorerland, cost estimates ranged from \$282 to \$337. Gaard motioned to approve, O’Gara seconded, all approved.

Nimrod updated the Board on the Great Places designation and grant application. The final application is due November 1, 2018.

Gaard updated the Board on the last meeting of the Winneshiek Community Foundation and discussed the grant distribution process and how it is trying to streamline and simplify grant applications. Both Gaard and Nimrod serve on the Community Foundation committee.

Department reports:

- *O’Gara updated the Board on the work that he and volunteers from DHPT along with the Luther Cross Country team did to improve safety on the Twin Springs trail. They worked with Peter van der Linden to lessen the impact on plants along the trail.*
- *Nimrod reported that there had been a meeting to discuss the City Forester position but that nothing had been determined yet.*
- *The Board continued its discussion of a policy regarding the naming of parks and public places and concluded that they were not interested in creating a policy at this time. Nimrod shared a letter from Bruce Jordan indicating that he was not supportive of ever naming a park after someone.*
- *The pool will be closing with the annual Dog Swim, August 26. There will be an end of the season report scheduled for the September Board meeting.*
- *The fall brochure is out with recreation activities.*

Other business:

- *At the request of City Administration, the Board discussed property near the campground and if they would consider selling some of it. The Board decided it needed to know more about the property before discussing it further, but agreed that they weren’t interested in selling land unless it was to help out with another project or initiative.*
- *The Board discussed the School District and City land offer. Gaard said that tennis and pickleball players were concerned that they could be without a lighted court to play on. Nimrod reported that 131 kids were in the youth tennis program this past summer making it one of the rec department’s largest programs. Vermace noted that it would be important to continue to have control on court time.*
- *Bakken discussed the Trout Run Trail website and noted that T.O.W. (Trails of Winneshiek) had been paying yearly invoices for the domain name and a hosting fee. She wondered if it would be possible to move this into the City’s website. Nimrod and Bakken will discuss with the 28E Trails Committee at its next meeting.*

*The next meeting of the Decorah Parks and Recreation Board was set for 7:00pm, Thursday, September 20, 2018.
Bakken motioned to adjourn, O’Gara seconded, all approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andy Nimrod".

Andy Nimrod

Director