

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

**7:00pm, Thursday, January 17, 2019, Decorah City Hall**

*Kathy Bakken was appointed to serve as Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, other Board members in attendance: Jeff O’Gara and Shirley Vermace. Others present: Ellen Macdonald, Friends of Decorah Parks, Jessica McGee, intern from UNI with the Recreation Department and Andy Nimrod, Director.*

*Nimrod reported under public comment that the City had received a request to treat Dug Road as a sidewalk and to keep snow and ice off it. The Board commented that trying to keep ice off it in its location would be difficult due to moisture and shade. Vermace questioned if ice treatment would be hard on any environmentally sensitive areas, especially the algific sloped area. The Board also had concerns about damaging the sides of the trail with a plow. Nimrod will continue to work with City administration and the 28E Trails Committee to create a policy.*

*O’Gara nominated Gaard to retain his Chairperson duties and Albers to stay as vice chair. Vermace motioned the nomination and O’Gara seconded, all approved.*

*Bakken motioned to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2018 meeting, Vermace seconded, all approved.*

*Nimrod reported that he and the parks crew had been reaching out to contractors to seek advice on the Severt Larsen Fountain restoration for the IGP Grant.*

*The Board looked through a list of 22 potential park projects and did a short, informal survey for staff to consider as they work through the budget.*

### *Department reports:*

*Parks: park staff are looking at playground equipment projects at Mary Christopher Park and Vennehjem Park. The park staff also heard a proposal of an entrance bench at Van Peenen as an Eagle Scout project.*

*Recreation: Jessica McGee gave a report from the rec department.*

- *2018 year in review*
  - *Program participant numbers were 3.2% higher than in 2017.*
  - *Event participant numbers were 21.5% higher than in 2017. The large increase in event participant numbers is partially due to hosting The Great Inflate as a new event in 2017.*
- *We will be hosting another new event, Superhero Sunday, January 27, 12-3pm in the Carrie Lee gym. This is a free, family open house event where participants are invited to come dressed as their favorite superhero and participate in games, crafts and other activities.*
- *Jessica McGee, a senior at UNI began here internship with our department December 27 and will be with us throughout the semester.*
- *The New Year’s Eve Bash was held at Luther College again this year.*
- *Biddy Basketball (ages 3 thru 6) started Saturday, January 12.*

- *Ecology Explorers is a new program that is being offered this year in partnership with Green Iowa AmeriCorps. This program is held after school on Tuesdays for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders and on Thursdays for Kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The program started the week of January 7 and runs four consecutive weeks*

*Campground: CG staff have been cutting and splitting wood.*

*Nimrod questioned the Board about any new thoughts, strategies, goals or priorities to focus on in 2019. The discussion will be continued at the February meeting.*

*Vermace asked for another dog bag station at the Dog Park.*

*The next meeting was scheduled for 7:00pm, February 21, 2019. Bakken motioned to adjourn, Vermace seconded, all approved.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Andy Nimrod*

*Director*

*Decorah Parks and Recreation*