

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

**7:00pm, Thursday, February 21, 2019, Decorah City Hall**

*Board members present: Jeff O’Gara, Shirley Vermace and Kathy Bakken. O’Gara was appointed Chair for the meeting. Also present were Andy Nimrod, Director, Ellen Macdonald and Jerri Osenga.*

*Public comment: Osenga gave a report from the 2018 gardening season at the Community Prairie Butterfly Garden.*

*Highlights included:*

- *22 different volunteers helped on Tuesday mornings and there were 19 volunteers who adopted plants to watch over.*
- *2019 will be focused on taking care of what is there and not looking to add more plant varieties.*
- *Noted that the new sign and bench are really nice additions to the butterfly garden.*
- *Urged the Parks crew to burn the prairie area closest to the butterfly garden this upcoming spring.*
- *Informed the Board that she will be reducing her role in caring for the butterfly garden this coming summer and hopes that Parks staff will be able to help pick up the slack. Jerri has been volunteering at the butterfly garden since 2011.*

*Vermace motioned to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting, Bakken seconded, all approved.*

*Reviewed financial reports and heard an update from Nimrod about the City Budget workshop.*

*Department reports:*

- *Trail grooming for cross-country skiing had been hard on equipment, but Parks crew thought they finally got problems solved moving forward.*
- *Discussed using solar panels for shade at the pool and if they would have quality dual use potential.*
- *Superhero Sunday was a new special event and drew 125 participants in its first year.*
- *The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Great Inflate will be held March 16 at Decorah High School.*
- *The Decorah Lions Club will be hosting a free will offering pancake dinner at the Great Inflate event and will be sharing the proceeds for the Parks tree replacement fund.*

*Ellen Macdonald said they had begun looking for new volunteers to pull garlic mustard. She noted that in some years pulling could begin in late March. She will be doing some coordinating with Jessica Mcgee, an intern at the Parks and Recreation Office.*

*The next meeting date was set for 7:00pm, March 21. Vermace motioned to adjourn, Bakken seconded, all approved.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Andy Nimrod*

*Director*

*Decorah Parks and Recreation*