

## MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, March 21, 2019, Decorah City Hall

Chairman Rich Gaard opened the meeting at 7:05pm. Board members present: Cindy Albers, Shirley Vermace and Kathy Bakken. Staff members present: Scott Ihde, Robin Sailor, Allie McIntire and Andy Nimrod. Others present: Jeff Tomlinson & Ellen Macdonald.

Jeff Tomlinson spoke to the Board about the continued growth of pickleball and wondered about converting the cement area at Wayside Park into pickleball courts. Tomlinson had cost estimates of building a new four pickleball court facility of about \$200,000 and thought repurposing an area like this made more sense. Staff agreed that the sport is growing quickly but had concerns about it working out with ice skating and basketball and wondered if moving the ice-skating rink really made sense. The Board tasked staff with looking into a partnership with a new Aase Haugen facility, checking with the school district about adding two more pickleball courts on the current tennis courts, consider repurposing any other park areas for pickleball, and to review any other potential sites for an ice-skating rink. Staff is to bring the information back to the April Board meeting.

Vermace motioned to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2019 Board meeting, Bakken seconded, all approved.

Parks staff gave a report on projects they have worked on in the last year and noted some work they will be starting when the weather breaks. The Board commented on how great the parks looked last year. Discussion centered on the upcoming projects with the Iowa Great Places grant and how that will lay out over the next three summers. Parks staff also shared that they thought adding a "donation box" along the Trout Run Trail would be a good way to generate some revenue for trail maintenance and discussed what that might look like. The parks have been awarded a grant from the Winneshiek County Community Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to be used on playground development in Vennehjem Park. Ellen Macdonald hoped that by the next Board meeting volunteers would be out picking garlic mustard and noted that they are always looking for new volunteers.

The Recreation Department reported that all its youth basketball leagues had wrapped up, and that they had just held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Great Inflate and hosted a G2G party earlier in the month.

Pulpit Rock Campground is scheduled to open March 29. Campground staff will be working with local youth on a major tree planting as part of a DNR Kids Dig Trees grant. The grant will fund 38 new trees for the campground.

The next meeting of the Decorah Parks and Recreation Board will be at 7:00pm, Thursday, April 18, at City Hall. Albers motioned to adjourn, Vermace seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation