

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00 pm, Thursday, July 18, 2019, Decorah City Hall

Welcome and introductions: *Board members present included Jeff O’Gara, Cindy Albers, Rich Gaard, and Shirley Vermace. Others in attendance were Andy Nimrod, Director, Brian Fuhrmann, and Dustin Mohs. Chairman Gaard opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. There was no public comment. O’Gara motioned to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2019 meeting, Albers seconded, and all approved.*

Consider a resolution of support for new park proposal on Water Street: *The Board discussed the presentation from Decorah Betterment at the June meeting. Vermace motioned to support the new park proposal on East Water Street with the following criteria:*

- *All money must be privately raised, the City would not be asked to participate financially*
- *Construction wouldn’t start until fundraising was complete*
- *The Board would be involved in the naming process*
- *Any extra money raised would go into a maintenance fund for the park*
- *The Board would be included on any signage decisions*

O’Gara seconded, all approved.

Consider the naming of the property donated by the Carlson family: *Gaard reported that he and Director Nimrod had met with the Carlsons and although they didn’t request the park be named after their family, they weren’t against it either. O’Gara motioned to name the property Carlson Park, Albers seconded, and all approved. Brian Fuhrmann reported that Decorah Human Powered Trails (DHPT) was interested in funding the trail portion of a park master plan put together by professionals in an amount not to exceed \$3,600. Nimrod will research proposals for that type of service.*

Consider lease with Alliant Energy on infrastructure easement: *Dustin Mohs from Alliant Energy shared a lease proposal to put a battery storage unit in the southeast corner of Vennehjem Park. Alliant would like to see if a lease agreement could be negotiated by this fall. The Board asked a lot of questions, including: Is it safe for park users? Is it environmentally safe? How much noise would it generate? Are there examples of these types of batteries in parks anywhere else? How do you determine fair market value? Mohs offered to find answers and bring an engineer to the August meeting. The Board thanked him for coming and were interested in hearing from an engineer.*

Adjourn: Albers motioned to adjourn at 9:15 pm, O’Gara seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation