

## MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, June 20, 2019, Decorah City Hall

Attendance, Board members: Rich Gaard, Jeff Albers and Cindy Albers. Staff: Andy Nimrod. Visitors: Brian Fuhrmann, Janelle Pavlovec and Paul Scott.

Gaard called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. There was no public comment. O’Gara motioned to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2019 meeting, Albers seconded, all approved.

Mike Harman shared a proposal from Decorah Betterment of a small new park on the corner of Water Street and Riverside. The park was a result of the Community Visioning project as a gathering spot as well as an entrance into the downtown district from the east. Harman noted that a small group from Decorah Betterment would raise 100% of the money needed. The Board expressed interest and asked Harman to check with the Betterment Committee and look into the following:

- The Board was not interested in supporting it financially, especially at the expense of other projects
- The Board wants to make sure fundraising was complete before construction started
- The Board would like to be part of the naming process
- The Board asked that any extra funds from the capital campaign go into a maintenance fund for the park
- The Board wants to make sure that any signage would be consistent with the rest of the Parks System.

Nimrod shared a letter from Laurie Worcester requesting that no public money would be used for the park. Board members also noted that they had been told the same thing from other citizens. Nimrod will work with Harman to make sure everything is ready to act on at the July Board meeting.

Nimrod shared the following department reports:

- The Decorah Police Department was working on a case involving vandalism in Palisades Park and Wold Park
- Pulpit Rock Campground was very busy and has been packed every weekend
- The pool was off to a good start despite the rainy weather
- Interviews were taking place for the Parks Assistant position
- The Dug Road portion of the Trout Run Trail had reopened after being closed due to the weather-related damage
- FEMA has looked at the Upper Iowa River bank along Pulpit Rock Road and it looks like FEMA might cost share to put the riverbank back where it was before a March flood with lots of large ice chunks tore the bank out and exposed the trail
- Gaard and Nimrod met with the Carlson family about the next steps of the Carlson property

In other business Nimrod reported that the 28E Trails committee would be discussing ebikes in upcoming meetings.

The next meeting was set for July 18, 2019. The Board showed interest in taking a facility tour following the July Board meeting. O’Gara motioned to adjourn, Albers seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod, Director  
Decorah Parks and Recreation