

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, August 20, 2020, Whalen Cabin, Phelps Park

Attendance: Chair Rich Gaard called the meeting to order at 7 :00pm, other board members present were Kathy Bakken and Brian Fuhrmann. Staff present included Andy Nimrod and Erika Randall.

Public comment: Pasha Korsakov from the Iowa Trails Series called into the meeting to ask about the Board's thoughts about him hosting a race in September with the current COVID situation. The Board was impressed with the plan he presented to mitigate risk, but with the new mask mandate in Decorah and increasing COVID numbers in Winneshiek County that it would be better if he waited a year. The Board didn't vote on it as it wasn't on the agenda. Fuhrmann recommended the Board and staff focus work on how to hold events safely as the virus could be here for a while and people need to get outside and be active to be healthy.

Fuhrmann motioned to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting, Bakken seconded, all approved.

The Board discussed the impact of COVID on the operating budget. Nimrod reported that revenues would be down in some areas significantly, but that expenses were down also. He also noted that the campground will probably break records this year in revenue.

Randall reported that the Recreation Department was planning fall program events that would be implemented after school begins. She felt programming in the fall with outdoor activities would be easily manageable, but that inside programming this winter might be more challenging.

Nimrod reported that playground equipment for Mary Christopher Park had been ordered and would be installed this fall. Gaard shared that he was touring splash pads and was hoping that we could continue to look at ways to fund one in a park for Decorah. Nimrod reported that the master plan for Carlson Park would be discussed at the September meeting.

Nimrod reported that the swimming pool would be closing for open swim August 21 and adult lap swim August 30. He also wanted to thank all of the staff and volunteers that made opening the pool and running it this year possible.

Other notes:

- The Board discussed a letter about dog leash concerns and asked to put it on the September agenda.
- The Board discussed the scheduling of events in the parks. Bakken asked if there might be a way to get the Board involved in the process.
- The Board discussed a no smoking campaign in the parks that would have a positive feel to it.

The next meeting date was confirmed for September 17, 2020. Bakken motioned to adjourn, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

Sincerely submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation