

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

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

Board members present: Rich Gaard, Shirley Vermace, Jeff O’Gara, Kathy Bakken and Cindy Albers. Staff present: Andy Nimrod and Jon Geiger. Visitors: Lorraine Borowski, Ellen Macdonald, Janelle Pavlovec, Brian Fuhrmann, Tade Kerndt, Glen Larson, Ray Koshatka, Andy Barske, Nils Kjome and Ray Seiler.

Chairman Gaard opened the meeting at 7:01pm. Albers motioned to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting, Bakken seconded, all approved.

The Board reviewed two options of proposed updates to Mary Christopher Park and opinion of costs that was prepared by Jeffrey Bruce Company. The Board liked both concepts presented but had concerns regarding the price projections. Vermace asked if the City would be on the hook for all the remaining work outside of the Vet’s Memorial. Nimrod said that yes, the City would be, but there could be some considerable cost savings with park staff doing some of the work and phasing it in over several years. The Board also reviewed a letter from Joseph Breitenstein, a licensed psychologist with lots of experience in working with veterans following deployment. Gaard asked if a contract should be developed so that both groups would have something in writing. Nimrod suggested creating a Memorandum of Understanding for both parties to sign. Gaard motioned to offer the veteran’s memorial committee space for a memorial in Mary Christopher as shown in either of the preliminary designs, O’Gara seconded, all approved.

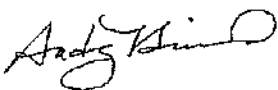
Nimrod shared some budget information and a list of capital improvement projects that staff were preparing for the fiscal year 2021 budget. Nimrod also shared with the Board that Scott and Kelly Searcy of the Driftless Discovery Run held in the parks had donated a check to Decorah Parks and Recreation and a check to Decorah Human Powered Trails in the amount of \$1,178 from proceeds of their run in June.

Nimrod reported he had received an update from the Decorah Betterment Committee who are raising money to form a pocket park on the corner of Water Street and Riverside. Currently there is \$131,500 pledged for the park. About 42% of pledge dollars have been collected. Some of the larger donors have elected to pay half in 2019 and half in 2020. In addition to those who have pledged, there are approximately 50 businesses and individuals who have been contacted but have not made a commitment yet. The fundraising goal has dropped from \$170,000 to \$162,000 – as the trees and tree grates are no longer a part of the project. Someone has offered to supply the trees and the labor to plant them. The committee also wanted to know if the Park-Rec Board had concerns with the name of Dry Run Park and asked for a discussion. The Board indicated that Dry Run Park seemed better than any alternatives.

Vermace offered to work on an article about the Park-Rec. Endowment and asked for contact information in hopes of getting it out soon for people thinking about year-end giving. Staff will press release the article when it is complete.

The next meeting was set for 7:00pm, December 19, 2019. Albers motioned to adjourn, Vermace seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation