

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, October 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Rich Gaard, Board chair, all members were present including Cindy Albers, Brian Fuhrmann, Kathy Bakken and Shirley Vermace. Staff present included Andy Nimrod and Erika Randall. Visitors included Tade Kerndt and Libby Abbis.

Vermace motioned to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2020, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

Nimrod reported there had been some questions to the office regarding the Alliant battery storage project in Vennehjem Park. He shared a project update from Alliant showing that construction was on schedule and a picture showing what the final project would look like. The construction footprint is initially considerably larger than the final outcome.

Tade Kerndt shared the Veteran's Memorial concept with the Board and reported the fundraising committee was about to get started. Kerndt indicated it was their goal to raise extra money to be placed into a maintenance fund to help with expenses down the road. He also asked on behalf of the fundraising committee if it would be acceptable to put a temporary sign on the future area set aside for the memorial with donation information, similar to the one at Dry Run Plaza. Gaard motioned to approve the layout of the memorial and the informational signage, Vermace seconded, all approved.

Nimrod and Randall shared some pictures from the open house held at Carlson Park October 2 and 3. They reported that there was an excellent turnout and lots of input, and that the architects were surprised how much interest there was. The Board asked for the November presentation from Jeffrey L. Bruce Company on the information gathered to be in a separate meeting from the monthly Board meeting in case it took a long time with all of the interest.

Nimrod gave a report regarding the goal setting meeting of Board and staff held in February and an update of the most popular projects and initiatives. The most popular projects coming out of the meeting involved the development of Carlson Park, protecting the Upper Iowa River bank as it goes through Decorah, continued improvements of Dunning's Spring Park, and adding shade and replacing the high dive at the swimming pool. Two initiatives really stood out; they were developing a master plan for Carlson Park as well as a master plan for the whole parks system. Nimrod reported that staff was making headway on all of the projects noted.

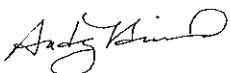
Nimrod reported in the financial reports that 25% of the yearly endowment proceeds had been reinvested as the Board had desired. Gaard indicated that he would like to have another discussion with the Community Foundation regarding any new ways to promote the endowment. Nimrod reported that an article following the wrap up of the Great Places Grant would be a great way to show how the endowment helps take care of the parks forever.

Department reports:

- Randall said she and rec staff were looking for new programming ideas during the pandemic.
- Fuhrmann reported that DHPT had partnered with Thrivent Financial to get the Gunnar Trail Project finished up. There is still some touch up work to be done.
- Vermace noted the erosion damage at Dunning's Spring this year with all of the extra traffic and wondered if there was some way to keep people off of some areas in the parks.
- Nimrod shared the annual pool report.
- Nimrod said that Scott Vande Krol, Pulpit Rock Campground Superintendent, would be coming to a meeting in the next couple of months to discuss overflow camping and how to handle it.

Vermace motioned to adjourn, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod, Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation