

**Minutes: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
7:00pm, Thursday, February 18, 2021, Decorah City Hall**

Rich Gaard, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Board members Cindy Albers, Kathy Bakken, Brian Fuhrmann and Shirley Vermace were all present as well as Andy Nimrod and Scott Ihde from the department's staff. Visitors included Eric Doll and Emma Lorenz from Jeffery L. Bruce Company, Ken Barker, Bruce Ventura, Kent and Marla Klocke and Paul Scott.

There was no public comment. Albers motioned to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2021 meeting, Bakken seconded, all approved.

Eric Doll and Emma Lorenz gave their final presentation of the work they compiled for the Board regarding master planning for Carlson Park. Doll reviewed the scope of services the Board had contracted them to do and shared the final document of the plan with the Board. Doll noted that this is what his team came up and that the Board might tweak things over time and that they would be willing to help change the document if needed. Board members asked if there might be any type of information available that would help take operational costs into account. Nimrod and Ihde pointed out that the parks staff was understaffed and that any development plans should address both operational costs and staffing need to operate the park as park users would expect. Ken Barker, of Backyard Trails, suggested that usually people use 20% of original construction costs as a yearly figure to plan on for trail maintenance budgeting.

Nimrod shared a report from Ray Koshatka and the fundraising committee for the Veteran's Memorial. Fundraising has recently received a large donation and things are moving along quicker than expected. The Board encouraged Nimrod to get the City Engineer and the engineer representing the vets together to start putting a construction plan together. Vermace wanted to note that any plans should not overdo lighting that points to the sky.

In financial matters Nimrod reported that the grant payment from year two of the Iowa Great Places Grant had come in and that about 25% of the grant remained unclaimed for this third and final year of the grant. The Board reviewed the balance of the Memorial Fund and the endowments.

In department reports Parks Superintendent Ihde reported on the following:

- Ice Cave Road would not be groomed anymore until the City and County had worked out some type of usage agreement.*
- The City was in the process of taking bids to fix/replace the steps at Ice Cave*
- The skating rink and winter trail maintenance plans were going well*
- Parks crew were working with a family on a memorial that would replace the #5 shelter in Phelps Park.*
- Nimrod reported that campground staff would begin taking limited reservations starting March 1.*

The next meeting was set for March 18, 2021. Vermace motioned to adjourn at 8:16pm, Albers seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



*Andy Nimrod
Director
Decorah Parks and Recreation*