

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, March 17, 2022, Decorah City Hall

Rich Gaard, board chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, board members Brian Fuhrmann, Benji Nichols, Zach Kerndt and Kathy Bakken were all present. Staff present included Scott Ihde, Parks Superintendent and Andy Nimrod, Director. Visitors included Steve Pasche, Melissa Fuhrmann, Max Walker, Jerri Osenga, Nick Pearch and four visiting Luther College students.

Public comment: The Board commended Jerri Osenga on her work in the City Prairie Butterfly Garden.

Bakken motioned to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2022 board meeting, Nichols seconded, all approved.

Brian Fuhrmann gave an update on plans being considered for Carlson Park. The group of volunteers he meets with are focusing on developing the northwest corner of the park and creating good park access across from Miller Park. Fuhrmann noted that the group is interested in creating a family friendly, attractive and attention-grabbing entrance. This includes creating a gateway trail that would stand out like features in other historic parks. The trail would be for all users but would include bike features along the side of the trail that would make it a skills course for users of all levels of abilities. Fuhrmann and Nimrod discussed a potential funding strategy that includes fundraising 50% of expected costs to leverage other money, including grants. The board agreed that the project would probably include professional design. Fuhrmann and Nimrod plan to bring design options to the April meeting.

The board discussed Larsen Fountain in Phelps Park as plans to rehab the fountain are more expensive than expected. The board indicated that even though costs are high they would like to keep the fountain working as it has. Staff will move forward with sandblasting and tuck pointing the fountain. Fuhrmann suggested looking into sandblasting with walnut shells.

The board suggested creating a memorial gift policy if there isn't one already in place.

Financial matters: Nichols shared information about a grant that could help with costs of the Miller Park Trail. Nichols offered to write the grant. He will share the grant with staff as he works on it.

Department reports:

- Mary Lewis is organizing efforts to weed out garlic mustard in the parks*
- A new season pool pass system is being implemented using fobs and a scanner at the pool*
- Ihde reported that he plans to start construction on the shelter/restroom at Mary Christopher the week of March 21*

In other business staff shared some trail improvement ideas from Gary Timmerman. The board will look into the suggestions and consider.

The board confirmed April 21, 2022 as the next meeting date. Kerndt motioned to adjourn, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andy Nimrod".

Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation