

MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday, April 21, 2022, Decorah City Hall

Vice Chair of the Decorah Parks and Recreation Board Benji Nichols called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, Board members Zach Kerndt and Brian Fuhrmann were present as was Director Andy Nimrod. John Nielsen from Novak Electric and two Luther students from a communications class were present.

There was no public comment. Kerndt motioned to approve the minutes from March 17, 2022, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

John Nielsen came to give an update on the solar discussion at the campground and was moved to the beginning of the agenda. The city council has directed the city manager to work with him to come up with a Power Purchase Agreement between the City and a private investor. Nielsen reported that he was looking to move the proposed location of the solar site from on top of the hill by Pulpit Rock to down along the cut. Fuhrmann had concerns locating it on the east side of the Oneota Drive Bridge noting that area would be better used as a trail head. Nielsen will look at putting the whole array on the west side of the cut or splitting the site into two locations. The project will also help with the campground electrical infrastructure as the plan will have two 600 amp services on the Pulpit Rock side of the campground and one 400 amp service on the Twin Springs side of the campground. This will allow the campground to increase the number of 50 amp services offered at campsites as well as enough power to add car charging stations down the road if needed. The plan for the City would be to buy out the private investor six or seven years down the road.

Nichols and Fuhrmann noted recent discussions regarding Destination Iowa money and REAP grants. They are both excellent opportunities for project funding.

Planning on Carlson Park development is centered on the Gateway Trail and linking Carlson Park to Miller Park and Minowa Heights. Nichols, Fuhrmann and Nimrod recently met with City Engineer Jeremy Bril and an official from IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) regarding design work.

Department reports:

- *Work on the shelter at Mary Christopher Park is going well*
- *Registration for summer activities will begin Monday, May 2*
- *The spring soccer program is underway, 364 kids and 61 volunteer coaches*
- *The post prom party for Decorah High School will once again be hosted by CREW*
- *There will be a new swimming pool pass system in place this season that uses a scanner*
- *Garden plots are full and there is a waiting list*

Other business:

- *Nichols submitted an American Trails Grant for the trail work at Miller Park*
- *Iowa Great Places will be doing a site visit May 5 to look at the grant projects*

Fuhrmann motioned to adjourn, Kerndt seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Nimrod

Director

Decorah Parks and Recreation