

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Brad Bark, Gina Othmer, Sarah Hoeg, Delmar Kuhlers & Rick Bierman

Members Absent: Pete Degabriele & Dana LaRue

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Jennifer Eagle

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

*Bark motioned to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2024 regular meeting as distributed.
Seconded by Othmer. All ayes; motion carries.*

Request – Brook Street Park Expansion

Members were shown map of park location.

Park Maintenance department already maintaining property – this will change to standard park rules & regulations if changed over.

Bark stated concern over the divots as a liability risk.

Kuhlers asked if there would need to be drainage set in place & a fence to keep people from driving though?

Othmer questioned about improvement of the alleyway to help prevent citizens from driving through.

Numerous Commission Members were concerned and wondered if the park needed to be expanded. Concerns were also expressed with the current neighbors expectations given how they are currently using the empty lots.

Hoeg asked if there was a motion on the floor. No motion offered. Request to expand the park fails.

Discussion – Indoor Sports Complex Development

Bark stated that Rich has done a great job on the development of this project with all the requests & suggestions continuing to be brought to the table.

Klimes responded that it has been a team effort and that this project has an opportunity to bring the community together.

Discussion – Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Members were given a document with fee comparisons from other municipal cemeteries in Iowa. Much discussion centered around resident and non-resident fees. The commission as a whole does not agree with non-resident fees but does recognize the financial impact of the fee. Othmer questioned if the resident fee could be raised to the non-resident fee level and the non-resident fee be discontinued

Kuhlers motioned to have cemetery resident fees raised to \$600.00 and to drop the non-resident fees effective as soon as possible. Bierman seconds. No further discussion brought to the table. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Weed Park Lagoon Project

Staff explained the project and informed the Commission that the project will be going out to bid in late April if the Council approves the plans and specifications.

Discussion – Athletic Facilities Scheduling Policies

Staff reviewed the facilities scheduling policies and informed the commission that we will begin the discussions of the usage and scheduling policies for the Indoor Sports Dome.

Updates – Programs and Projects Updates

The Parks & Recreation Brochure was handed out to each member for review.

Southend Taylor Park restrooms & shade structures are being ordered. Security cameras, security light installation & pickleball court repairs are upcoming.

Update – Special Events

Parks & Recreation held the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Weed Park; as well as attended the Spring Market at the mall hosting a craft table with the help of volunteers from the Muscatine Key Club. Girls Weekend Getaway is coming up in April.

Almost Friday Fest, Melon City Criterium, American Cruise Line Tours are some of the upcoming scheduled events.

Other Business

Bierman & LaRue's terms end at the end of June. We will be looking for their replacements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Eagle
Officer Coordinator