

**Hiawatha Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting
March 9, 2021**

Charles Uthe called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. virtually via Google Meet. Present: Charles Uthe, Chris Klostermann, Dan Wilkes and Michelle McIllece. Absent: Heather Gibson
Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, Kim Downs, City Manager, and Ambyr Severson, Administrative Coordinator.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe, to approve the March 9, 2021 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe, to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 Motion carried.

Turtle Creek Park Phase 2:

Willadsen informed the commission that the department can spend up to \$1.2M for Phase II. MSA's updated concept adds additional trail to the existing trail with surfacing. The options are asphalt or a limestone resin seal coated trail that would look like granite. However, she is recommending asphalt to keep it functional to plow in the winter, plus the granite option is expensive. An accessible playground feature will be included and a natural splashpad, if money allows. The splashpad would not be as big as Guthridge or Tucker and would be designed similar to Green Square Park in Cedar Rapids, with colored concrete to make it inviting for families. A storm water basin will also be installed. This will be a dry basin with the option to cap it in the winter for a skating rink, if we choose to.

Wilkes asked what the timing on this project is.

Willadsen advised that Phase II is projected to be complete before the end of 2021 and that the goal is to get it moving and functional.

She continued, the original Phase II concept mapped the building on the north end of the park but she asked them to move it to the south end so that it makes sense to develop the north end until we are ready to build; and who knows, in five or ten years from now we may not want a building there anymore. The committee agreed and likes the concept with the building on the south and playground on the North end best. Bidding takes place the end of June, awarded at the end of July and contracts will start as soon as possible.

Uthe asked how many parking spots are in Phase II?

Willadsen replied that she was unsure until she sees the design in greater detail. There will be port-a-potties in a nicer shelter for the time being. The committee determined that restrooms are not a main priority right now.

Uthe asked if street parking would be made available.

Willadsen replied that she would have to see how wide the road is. We need to make sure there's enough room for crews in the event of an emergency.

Uthe added that if there are activities going on, he wouldn't want it to turn into Tucker during soccer season.

Guthridge and Tucker Park Playground Equipment Discussion:

Willadsen advised that construction costs are increasing and the department needs to move quickly to lock in a price. She reminded them that at the last meeting she liked the ramp features and height. She took their suggestions back to Cunningham Recreation with those additions. She broke down all three for the commission. The Tucker Park Tower Structure includes a ten-foot tower piece in which children with mobility limitations can go all the way through the structure until the tower. There are seven climbers, two overhead play pieces, five slides, eleven play panels and a large rocker. This structure does not have pod steps and a balancing beam as the monkey bars were added in its place.

Wilkes replied that the Mom's Group enjoyed Tucker because it has the combination of big kid and little kid structures.

She advised that the original Tucker Option 1 dropped the cost by \$2,700 after dropping the shade panels from the structure. This option still has six feet of height, seven climbers, two overhead play options, four slides, monkey bars, eight pod steps, a balance beam and a merry go all. Based on their feedback from the last meeting, the Tucker Park Tower Structure fit their wants and needs.

McIllece asked if the tradeoff was the balancing features for height?

Willadsen confirmed that the only difference is the height and towers.

She then explained Guthridge Parks play structure. Nothing had changed with Guthridge. The color of the structure won't make a difference in the hot weather, either way it will get hot. Dark won't show as much dirt or debris. Lighter colors can sometimes look grimy and dingy. She's recommending the darker colors when looking at the options.

When she took the project to the commission at the last meeting the project was \$3,000 below budget. This time there's a \$5,000 blanket with the original options and an \$8,500 worth of wiggle room if the Tower structure was chosen. The public works department and sales department at Cunningham agreed that if anything would come up it would not be a big expense.

Willadsen did reach out to Boland and asked if the department could go with rubber tile instead of pour in place. They do not install tiling and would have to subcontract it out which would throw the whole project off.

Klostermann reminded the commission to look at the parks in the surrounding areas and what stands out. At Thomas Park it's the tower. The other option at Tucker is good but reminded him of the structure on 42nd St.

Willadsen agreed that the tower is inviting and exciting. When a child is three or four foot tall, everything looks big. Adults overthink the situation.

Wilkes added that it's the billboard effect. Sometimes it's not how it's used but how it's perceived.

Willadsen added it's been fun. She thinks our parks could be desinational parks because it's inclusive and functionable. This price is locked through March 31st and if one isn't agreed upon it'll be back to the drawing board and an upwards of \$13,000 increase after.

Uthe asked if the screens are fabric?

Willadsen replied yes.

Uthe asked what the lifetime on those are?

Willadsen replies ten years but that it really depends on season and weather.

Uthe recommended asking for a replacement kit to sweeten the deal.

Willadsen replied that was a good idea and explained that if the project was approved the next steps would be asking for an approval from council, ordering the equipment and goal would be to install in July with Tucker first and Guthridge second.

Motion by Michelle McIllece to recommend to council the approval of Option 3 Park Structure at Tucker Park and Guthridge Park Structure for a cost of \$441,848.76 with a total project cost not to exceed \$450,000.00, seconded by Chris Klostermann. Motion carried.

Hiawatha Farmers Market COVID Policy 2021:

Willadsen advised that she's looking for the support of the Commission for the Farmers Market COVID policy for 2021. The vendors will only be seasonal vendors and placed every other stall. Vendors are required to wear masks and if things change the department can let vendors know. The rules and guidelines were created based on Marion and Cedar Rapids rules so that there's not a lot of room for complaints. We will also recommend that visitors wear them, as well, and have signage at entryways to support this. This is similar to last year. Dawn Ewoldt will be the Market Manager again. She has a great relationship with vendors. Again, this policy is aligned

with the CDC, Linn County Public Health, Marion and Cedar Rapids recommendations. Your approval symbolizes your support for the rules and guidelines of our market. Motion by Dan Wilkes, seconded by Michelle McIllece, to support the Farmers Market COVID Policy for 2021. Motion carried.

Willadsen asked the commission how they felt about meeting in person.

Klostermann, Uthe and McIllece advised they would have their second shots by then and are comfortable with meeting in person.

Willadsen advised the commission that City Hall is still closed in March, in April will be open by appointment and in May it will be open to the public at 50% capacity.

The department will start accepting reservations for the Community Center and Park Pavilions May 3rd. Those who have graduations will be excited. Some reservations have been canceled and some have not. There are guidelines in place and we have cameras. We just hope that those with reservations use their best judgement.

Soccer will be our first program this summer. We are planning on following CDC guidelines plus guidance from Iowa Parks and Recreation Association members.

Hiawatha Kids League is submitting guidelines to move forward with programming this summer. They have been in contact with Linn County Public Health and are allowed to sell hot dogs and brats as long as they wear masks.

Uthe asked if the dugouts and bleachers will be completed by then.

Willadsen was in the middle of her response with the Zoom link was interrupted and the meeting was adjourned.

Charles Uthe, Chair

ATTEST:

Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation