Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Business:

New Members: I would like to welcome two new members to the park board, Charles Uthe and Chris Klostermann. Chris Klostermann will be replacing Debby Theis, and Charles Uthe will be replacing Brandon Lynch. Brandon recently moved out of Hiawatha and had to resign from his position. We welcome both of these gentlemen to the board. Here's a little about both of them:

Chris Klostermann- the Park Commission intrigued me as a way to possibly give back because the parks and recreational opportunities in Hiawatha have been an integral reason for the high quality of life me and my family have enjoyed from the moment we moved to this community in 2010.

I'm the father of boy/girl twins, and I remember getting home from work as soon as I could so that I could take the twins to Guthridge park and give my wife a breather in those early days! Since then, we've continued to enjoy the parks as a family and have grown to take in the music concerts, farmer's market, 5K events (my last event was the Reindeer Run in December,) and getting to play disc golf with my kids at Clark Park.

Having the opportunity to be a contributing member of the Parks and Recreation board would help fulfill my desire to ensure that others who live in or visit Hiawatha can enjoy all that we have to offer.

Charles Uthe- My name is Charles Uthe, I live in Hiawatha with my wife, three children, and our dog. My family and I enjoy the parks, activities and programs Hiawatha Parks and Recreation offers year-round. I have a strong belief in the importance of parks and recreation. I would like to serve and contribute to the community as a member of the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation board. I feel it would be a privilege to be on the board knowing that the decisions we make will affect the future of Hiawatha, and have a direct impact on the quality of life of the people of Hiawatha.

Splash Pad Resurfacing: We have been researching the best options for splash pad resurfacing. We currently have both of our pads in an equipment reserve that puts away $8,600.00 every year for repairs and resurfacing. This past fall we removed Tucker Park's surfacing since it was in poor condition and up for replacement.

In 2012 both splash pads were resurfaced for the second time since their installment in 2004 and 2005. The surface that has been used the last two times is an Aquaflex pebbled surface that is installed on top of the concrete base. The first time they were installed we were able to get an 8-year life span out of them before the surfacing started to bubble and crack. Since 2012, our public usage at both Tucker and Guthridge has increased along with decreasing our surfacing longevity by two years. We were able to order patch kits to repair the cracking areas but the patching did not adhere making the surface uneven and a safety concern to our users.

To replace the current surfacing, it would cost on average about $57,300.00 for both Guthridge and Tucker Park for

FY19. We have been researching other options, and reached out to other cities to see what they are using. The City of Cedar Rapids removed all surfacing on majority of their pads due to budgeting restrictions, leaving them bare concrete. The City of Marion uses the same surfacing we have, and the City of Palo uses a no slip paint called Tuff Coat, a rubberized non-skid paint that their own staff paints on.

I contacted Tuff Coat this fall, and was able to meet their representatives at the National Conference in Indianapolis. I sent over Tucker Parks square footage, as that is the one that we will replace first, and their quote came back at $4,799.00, a significant difference than the surface we currently have. I was able to stop over at Palos Splash Pad and see the quality of the product. They have been very happy with the company and have not had to reapply paint for two years. The positives about this product is that we can pick any colors we want. This would still be an inviting surface for our users, and still prevent slips and falls. Our staff is able to apply the product, we can reapply when needed, and it prevents us from having uneven surfaces and bubbling.

We would start with Tucker Park and complete Guthridge Park next fall to make sure we are satisfied. When the surfacing from Tucker was peeled off, the design outline was still embedded in the concrete. We will be able to use the outlines for the new color application.

I would like your approval to move forward with Tuff Coat as it is cost effective, user friendly, and still makes our splash pads inviting with a colorful surface that is safe for users.

Amateur Radio Field Day June 21st-23rd 2019: ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is an education event that is self-sufficient and teaches Amateurs to operate in abnormal situations in case of emergency instances. June 21-23rd a local Amateur Group in the Hiawatha/Cedar Rapids area would like to use Clark Park as a designated location. This will be their 4th year of doing this event. It will require that Clark P ark stay open 24 hours past our 10PM curfew. There would be 24 hours shifts that these Amateurs would cover to connect with as many stations as possible that weekend (the whole objective of the event). The park would still be open to the public besides the disc golf course. They would need to set up portable antennas that would be between 30-40ft high. This group carries insurance and is very self-efficient. We will be asking for a $1,000.00 refundable damage deposit along with the Clark Pavilion Rental.

I would like your approval for this event to take place in Clark Park on June 21-23rd, to extend park hours for the length of this event and to allow staff to approve this event internally for the following years to come. Attached you will see the memo with further details.

Friends Foundation Tucker Park Project: The Friends of Hiawatha Park and Recreation Foundation raises money through special events to help pay for the cost of Adventure Camp, park updates and other activities within the community. This past fall, the organization decided they wanted a project that was bigger in scale and made a difference in the parks. Something that could get their name out and signify what they do for our community and the Parks and Recreation Department. I took them a few projects I felt would make the largest impact, one of them being updating the equipment in Tucker Park.

This past summer when we had an ICAP certified playground inspector walk through all of our parks, one of their main concerns was the outdated equipment in Tucker Park. This is the area that is next to the large structure that features a metal slide, two rockers (one that has recently been removed) and a swing set. This area is supposed to be designated for 2-5 year old's, but is limited to what the kids can do. The metal slide gets very hot in the summer, the rockers have withheld their life span, and the swing set is nearly 20 years old.

The Friends Foundation selected this project, and has agreed to put $13,000.00 toward this update. I took different ideas to their board and we came up with some new ideas that would better improve the area and offer some all-

inclusive elements. As we all know, inclusion has been a big word in the last 5 years. Cedar Rapids and Marion now have inclusive playgrounds, and to add some elements here in Hiawatha would be a great step forward.

This project would include replacing all the outdated and unsafe playground features. City Staff and Volunteers will tear out the old equipment (slide, swings and rockers) and expand the current playground area to meet the size requirements of the new equipment. The new equipment would feature a new 2-5-year-old structure that has all-inclusive components, musical play, hands on features and creative panels for children to use their imaginations. There would be two new rockers that are ADA compliant, and a new swing set that has a generation swing, a handicap swing, and two infant swings (pictures attached). This will provide a safe place for young children and children with disabilities to play.

After designing this play area, we reached out to the local HiCREW Kiwanis Club and asked if they would be interested in participating in this community project. Since they also have a mission to support children in the metro area, they agreed to put forth $1,000.00. The Iowa Park and Recreation Association Foundation also had a small grant up to $1,000.00 that we were able to apply for and will find out in the next month if we are awarded. The total project cost is $16,379.00, if we received the IPRA Foundation Grant this playground update would be 85% funded by local non-profit organizations. The remaining $1,379.00 would be funded out of the general Park budget for the completion of the project.

I would to receive your support for this project, and the great things these two groups do to better our community. This project would take place this summer.

Optimizing Park and Recreation Assets: Kim Downs, the City Administrator and I sat through a webinar in December on Optimizing Park and Recreation Assets. The main points taken from the webinar on how to optimize our services were: looking at our value proposition, community engagement, resource inventory and strategizing how we can best put them into play. It is always our goal to be proactive and stay ahead of the game. I broke down the different categories and listed below how we can keep progressing with a combination of what we already do. If you have any other suggestions or feedback please let me know. The document is attached. You will also see a list of projects in our CIP that are spread out over the next 5 years. We will continue to add to this once the Comprehensive Park Plan is updated and we receive more feedback from the NW Territory Park location. This will be a good guide for us moving forward.

Reports:

Community Center:

Audio Visual Projector Upgrade: The Community Center projectors have hit their life span and are in need of replacement. We currently have two projectors that can be rented out during rentals and used for city events. We have a lot of usage and have tried to prolong their life span as long as possible. The projectors we currently have are the originals that where installed when the Community Center first opened. With technology always being updated they no longer carry the brand and style that we have. Conference Technologies is the company that updated our system in 2017, at that time we did not update the projectors because they were working to their full capacity. Over the last two years they have exceeded their lamp hours and officially do not turn on any longer. With class trainings and special events coming up we are in need of a replacement. Conference Technologies in Hiawatha is the only company that has the equipment to install new projectors and update our current system so that they work hand in hand.

Council approved this update at the January 6th council meeting and the new projectors will be installed the first week in February. For two new projectors, installation, re-programming the system and providing any additional cabling and installation materials the quote came in at $7,418.57. These projectors are 6,000 lumen and laser phosphor which means they will last for 20,000 hours and do not have a replacement lamp (light bulb) that needs replaced. We anticipate for

these to last another 8-10 years depending on the level of usage from our rentals and staff for city trainings. We have a technology reserve for the Community Center so no funds will be taken out of the general Park and Recreation budget.

Parks:

Dog Park Update: With the "polar vortex" that made its appearance the past couple weeks, the Linn County Chainsaw response team was unable to complete tree removal at the end of January. They will be selecting new dates to get the project completed before the end of February. After they are finished, we will be working with Doug Johnson from Total Scapes that will remove the tree stumps and clean up any remaining trees or branches that are a safety concern.

We have been working with our City Engineer and Public Works Superintendent on the construction of a bridge to go over the creek. County did not want dog park users walking down the trail to access the south entrance requiring a bridge or culvert. Instead of putting in a culvert, we have decided to go with a bridge that will be more appealing and less maintenance. We will be working with Barnes Manufacturing out of Marion for the construction of this project. It will be a 28' x 8' bridge made out of corten steel and oak. (Pictures Attached) We hope to have the trees and bridge installed during the month of March so we can get ground work and seeding accomplished before spring hits. We are still working towards our goal of having the park completed this fall.

MSA Park Study: We met with MSA for the 3rd time on January 27th to go over their findings from the Comp Plan survey that was sent out in December. There were 183 respondents from Hiawatha residents and the metro area. Attached you will see some of their finding. From here they will break down and put together an updated Comprehensive Park Plan to help us forecast the next 10 years. They will also be putting together some ideas for our upcoming NW Park, helping us determined what should be done first and what the community would like to see on that side of town. **Our next meeting with MSA will be on February 27th at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room of City Hall. You are all encouraged to attend.**

Recreation:

- **JoJo Siwa Dance Clinic:** The Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department and the Kennedy Dance Team partnered to hold a JoJo Siwa Dance Clinic for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. 33 kids showed up to learn a routine to JoJo's Boomerang. JoJo Bows were included with their $25 registration fee. It was super fun and we're looking forward to partnering with Kennedy again in 2020.

- **Zumba 2019:** All are welcome to free fitness classes at 6pm in the Community Center on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in 2019! Classes include Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold, Belly Dance, STRONG by Zumba, BollyX, and POUND Fit (using drumstix!) February 13th is belly dance fitness. Come join the fun!

- **Whispering Pines Classes:** Bring your own snacks and beverages and learn to paint at the Hiawatha Community Center. February 20th is a beautiful winter landscape. Fee is $35 cash or check only. To register text Donita at 319-270-1112 Check Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Facebook to see what March's class will be!

- **Motivational Mondays sponsored by True North**: True North has graciously donated $1,000 to allow our community members free fitness on every Monday of the Month during the 2019 year starting in April. Classes will take place from 6-7pm in the Hiawatha Community Center featuring a variety of classes from Yoga to Piyo, High Intensity Training, Zumba and so much more! Motivate yourself in 2019!

- **Ride to Wrigley:** Join the Marion and Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Departments for a chartered trip to one of baseball's greatest and most historic venues...Wrigley Field. Leave the transportation and parking to

us and travel in comfort in a chartered motor coach to watch the Chicago Cubs battle the New York Mets from the bleachers. Food and drink is permitted on the bus. More information and a detailed itinerary will be available closer to the game date. HURRY, SEATS WILL GO FAST!

FEE: $100* per person (includes game ticket and bus fare)
*Payment must be made in the form of cash or check
(checks made payable to: Ride To Wrigley)
DAYS/DATES: Friday, June 21
TIME(S): Pick-Up @ 5:30 a.m.; Drop-Off @ 11:30 p.m.
PICK-UP/DROP OFF LOCATION: To Be Determined
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Until All Tickets are Sold
NOTES: First pitch is scheduled for 1:20 p.m.

- **Farmers Market:** Vendor applications are coming in hot! Everyone is thinking spring. The first market of the year is April 28th. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a vendor visit https://hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/parks-recreation/forms/

- **Daytime Dancers:** Daytime Dancers is a 5-week program designed for ages 3 to 6. Registering with us will allow your child to learn the basics of dance and discover if they have a passion for it. We will introduce stretching, basic dance techniques, and dancing with props. The children will learn two short dance routines that will be showcased on the last day of dance. Our main goal is for the children to have fun while learning dance and movement to age appropriate music. Let us share our passion of dance with your child! Register online at www.daytimedancers.com

  Location: Hiawatha Community Center
  Program Dates: Mondays March 4 - April 1
  5:30–6:15 p.m.
  Fee: $40

- **Recognizing Debby Theis for 13 years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board:** Debby is unable to make it to the park board meeting, but we will be presenting her with a plaque for her 13 years of service on the Park Board. We thank her for her service and dedication to the Hiawatha community.