Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Business:

Elect Chairs: A new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will need to be approved by the Commission for the 2018 calendar year.

Kona Ice: Kelly has contacted Jon and Rachel Booms with Kona Ice inquiring to come out to Adventure Camp every other week for the 2018 season along with the first Movies Under the Moon date on July 20th and the Hiawatha Fun Fest event on August 24th and 25th. With the great feedback from the kids and staff, I would like to recommend to commission to approve Kona Ice to come to Adventure Camp, Movies Under the Moon and Fun Fest with the permission given from the Parks and Recreation staff and completed City vendor qualified forms. These are the temporary dates scheduled with commission's approval.

Camp Dates:
June 19th
July 5th
July 24th
August 9th
Outdoor Movies:
July 20th
August 24th
Fun Fest:
Vending- August 25th 11-8pm

Volunteer sign up for events 2018: Please select 4-5 events to help out with during the year. If you know of anyone looking for volunteer opportunities we have plenty to offer.

Reports:

- **Program Brochure 2018:** The 2018 Program Brochure was sent in to get printed on January 3rd. Once we get the brochures in we will distribute them around town and to the Hiawatha Schools and sponsors. All the programs are available online to register for 2018 starting January 8th! We are keeping our fingers crossed that the website will work efficiently this year.
- **Lil Cougar Dance Clinic:** The Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department and the Kennedy Dance Team will be holding a Dance Clinic for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Each child should wear gym pants, a T-shirt, tennis shoes, and socks to the clinic. We would like each child to bring plenty of spirit and most importantly, their smiles! Pom Poms included with your registration fee. In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved to February 18th. Fee $20

- **Letters from Santa:** 48 letters were sent to children throughout the United States! They went as far as Missouri, California, Wisconsin, Colorado, New Mexico and New Jersey! We've included a copy of this year's letter in this report so you can see how personalized they are. Since this child is well known in our programs we included her "Elf on the Shelf" and plan to make that standard in 2018's letters.

- **Zumba 2018:** All are welcome to free fitness classes at 6pm the 2nd Wednesday of every month in 2018! Classes include Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold, Belly Dance, STRONG by Zumba, BollyX, and POUND Fit (using drumstix!) January's class is Zumba Toning and February's class is Belly Dance Fitness. Tara Allen is the instructor and we're so happy to have her on board for 2018!

- **Whispering Pines Classes 2018:** Whispering Pine classes will take place in the Hiawatha Community Center on the third Wednesday of each month. Stay tuned to Facebook Events to see what the next painting is! Fee is $35

- **Cooking with Carol:** Ready for healthy eating in 2018! Need to shed a few holiday pounds? Join us and learn how to have a make ahead salad bar in your fridge. You will see how to prep veggies for the fridge and make a weekday salad in a flash. You will take home a small cool and serve tray to make your own salad bar so you will be able to recreate this at home. Cost: Basic $45, includes class and small cool and serve tray Upgrade to a Basic Plus $62, includes class, small cool and serve tray and make and take mason jar OR Upgrade to Executive Set $115, includes class, Large cool and serve tray and make and take mason Jar. Total of 15 spots available. Mon, January 29, 2018 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM CST

- **Cooking with Carol** – Kids in the Kitchen Version - Valentine Cookie Workshop Bring your 6-10 yr. olds for a fun night of cookie making. Adult must accompany each child. Take home your Valentine cookies and kids mixing bowl. Cost: $25 per child, Minimum 5, Max. 10 Monday, February 12th Fee: $25.00 per child, adults free, includes class, kids mixing bowl and Valentine cookies. 6:30pm in the Hiawatha Community Center Registration Deadline: Monday, January 19th

- **Yoga 2018**: Bring balance and harmony to the mind, body, and spirit in this slower paced practice that consists of flowing sequences to build strength, flexibility, balance and breath awareness. All levels are welcome as your practice is always evolving. Yoga is taught by Kayla Davis and takes place the last Thursday of every month in the Hiawatha Community Center at 6pm.

- **New Board Member- Michelle McIllece:** With Dan Gogel stepping down from the board we have selected Michelle as our new member! Here is a little about her.

  Michelle's professional experience has been in higher education, non-profit operations and program development, and corporate staffing and recruiting. Her experience has focused on the creation, delivery, and evaluation of learning tactics to facilitate both individual and organizational growth; she specializes in creating strategies to teach people how to pursue fulfillment in their professional lives.
  Michelle has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master of Business Administration, both from the University of Iowa. Originally from a smallish town near Rockford, Illinois, she has been a proud Hiawatha resident for nearly 7 years and has lived in the Cedar Rapids area for 20 years. She loves Hiawatha because it has a small-town feel (it's awesome to have lengthy conversations about nothing with the city hall staff when you go to pay your water bill), the best parks this side of the Atlantic Ocean, and easy access to anything you could possibly need in life. Her family includes her husband Jens, who likes to keep a low profile but easily puts up with his wife's shenanigans; their son Luke, who is almost 9 and plans to be President someday (maybe mayor of Hiawatha?); three rescue cats; and a big dumb dog who likes to escape the house and take himself for walks in the neighborhood every once in a while. Her hobbies include running, crocheting, not cooking, and driving Luke in circles around Hiawatha so he can get to all his camps, practices, and playdates on time.

Parks:

- **Tree Trimming/Removal:** Ted and the streets department are busy trimming trees and removing trees that are dead or a safety concern. We have applied for another Branching Out Grant and Tree Please Grant which will be used to replanting trees that were removed.
- **Snow Removal:** Ted has been busy plowing and removing snow, with Rick currently out until the spring we are down one guy keeping everyone extra busy!
- **Dog Park Update:** To dispose of Kainz Park in swaps of building a dog park with Dave Wrights land and Linn County, there are certain hoops we have to jump through in order to acquire the appropriate land. The property is somewhat unique in that within the warranty deed of Kainz park (and the surrounding three lots) there are two restrictions placed on the parcel. The first restriction says the parcel needs to stay in the City of Hiawatha's name and to be used for public purpose. The second says if at any time the city no longer wants to use either parcel for public purpose the land would automatically be transferred back to Linn County.

  In our efforts to form a public, public, partnership to establish a dog park, Linn County requested we quit claim deed the four lots back to them (Kainz park and the surrounding 3 lots) which was approved at the December 20th meeting.

  Linn County will then hold the necessary public hearings and consider exchanging the deeded four lots in exchange for Dave Wrights parcel east of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail adjacent to the County parcel to the south (where the future dog park development will occur).

  With this exchange the County will maintain certain restrictions on the 4 lots keeping the public purpose requirements and maintaining current separation to the residential properties (currently there).

  In January, Linn County will then convey Dave Wrights parcel east of the Cedar Valley Trail to the City of Hiawatha for $1.00. The land will hold similar restriction as the previous 4 lots currently did for public purpose and/or use. The City would then take Dave Wrights parcel and the parcel east of the Cedar Valley Trail to be used for a small and large dog park.

  We hope we can get a start on the dog park project development come this spring as long as Linn County passes all the necessary policies and procedures.