Parks and Recreation Work Session April 9, 2019

The Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Commission met in a work session in the Multipurpose Room on the lower level of Hiawatha City Hall on April 9, 2019. Dan Wilkes called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M. Commission members present: Dan Wilkes, Dawn Ewoldt, Charles Uthe, Chris Klostermann and Michelle McIllece. Staff present: City Administrator Kim Downs, Director of Parks and Recreation Kelly Willadsen, Administrative Coordinator Ambyr Severson, Parks Maintenance Ted Olson and Hiawatha Council Member Aime Wichtendahl.

Recreation Center Location:
The work session started with a discussion on the potential recreation center location. Willadsen advised Clark is a possibility contingent on access and Taylor property is also an option but to keep in mind that this is a far-out project as the library and fire station is on the roster before a recreation center is even an option. Wichtendahl advised that Fire likely wouldn't get approved without a referendum. City Hall Bond doesn't fall off until 2027and the fire station would start in 2030 so the recreation center wouldn't start until 2030's so deciding on where to place the center is neither here nor there at this point.

Naming of Taylor Property:
Wichtendahl guided that Tom Theis has been a mayor forever and would be a good way to honor him. Everyone agreed that they like the idea of keeping it historically related to the City. Other recommendations were Salvator Giunta who received the Medal of Honor in 2010 and nearby roads that could help identify the park.

Taylor Property Amenities:

Many recommendations such as

- Soccer fields
- Green space
- Multifunctional area
- Natural areas
- Trail & connections
- Shelter
- Playground
- Dog Park

Current Focus

- Bring current parks to ADA standards
- Update safety concerns

- Updating parks equipment

Least Used Amenities

- Education center
- Tetherball
- Horseshoes

Most Used Amenities

- Baseball
- Splashpad
- Trails

The commission made an overall decision to add an additional section for a recreation or event center to acknowledge that it's a goal but it's not possible for 2029. The commission and City Council will use the document as a goal setting document, to set priorities over the next ten years and shape the conversation.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Charles Uthe, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Dan Wilkes, Chairperson

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ATTEST: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

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