Hiawatha Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2019

Dan Wilkes called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers. Present: Dan Wilkes, Chris Klostermann and Charles Uthe. Absent: Dawn Ewoldt and Michelle McIllece. Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director, Ambyr Severson, Administrative Coordinator and Kim Downs, City Administrator. Guest: Dan Hoffman.

Motion by Charles Uthe second by, Chris Klostermann to approve the May 14, 2019 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019 and April 9, 2019. Motion carried.

Unite Walk Approval- The City received a special event request to hold the Hemophilia of Iowa Clot Trot now known as the Unite Walk 5K Race on September 21, 2019. The race will begin and end at Clark Park as in previous years. They have already reserved the park for that date. Kelly did not foresee any issues with this event as it will be their 4th year of hosting this event in one of our parks. Wilkes asked if this is a fundraiser. Willadsen confirmed. Uthe asked if there is enough parking. Willadsen advised that there would be enough parking and if not, they've been informed to ask Kirkwood about overflow parking.

Motion by Charles Uthe second by, Chris Klostermann to recommend to council to approve Unite Walk's request to use Clark Park on September 21, 2019. Motion carried.

Dog Mayor- Chair, Dan Wilkes has had the idea to start a dog Mayor aka "Big Dog in Town" in Hiawatha as a fun way to get the community engaged and raise funds for the upcoming dog park. Mayor, Bill Bennett was approached about the idea and he has approved to do more research to get this off the ground. There are 7 other states in the US that have had a dog mayor/pet mayor, mainly to add some fun to their City's. Some of the ideas we have come up with are to have the dog candidates in the Fun Fest parade, announce the winner at or after Fun Fest, have the first "Big Dog in Town" at the ribbon cutting of our new dog park, and attend selected events when applicable.

Kelly reached out to Fair Haven, Vermont, Omena, Michigan, and Cormorant, Minnesota to find out some information on how their elections ran. After compiling information this is what was found: $5.00 nominations, $1.00 vote, each year project will change for fundraising, fees were collected through a PayPal account, dog/pet participates in community events and is the talk of the community.

Ambyr and Kelly have put together an application for dog nominations and the Friends Foundation has created a website through SQUARE and Weebly that will manage the donations. The Friends Foundation will collect the funds and distribute to the dog park accordingly.

Uthe advised the event would be a good way to promote the park. Wilkes added that less is more on the application – One bullet point, something goofy, more open ended so the nominator can make a hook. Klostermann asked if it would be kept to a dog only election. Willadsen said she wanted to make sure it

was an animal that was within the city ordinance but the first year should be a dog since it's raising money for the dog park.

Willadsen asked if the production should be called Dog Mayor or Big Dog in Town with the concern that people would take Dog Mayor as something more. Klostermann mentioned HiaPAWtha. An official decision was not made at that point. Downs also mentioned that the dog would be expected to be on site at community events.

Motion by Charles Uthe second by, Chris Klostermann to recommend to council to approve Dog Mayor fundraiser. Motion carried.

MSA Comp Plan Update- Willadsen advised that she'd like to move forward as a committee with the comprehensive plan as it is. If the children have anything to add we can still accept it and use ourselves. The final draft will be distributed next week for review and then submitted to council on June 19th.

Reports- Willadsen mentioned Tucker's splashpad will be painted next week if weather holds off. Severson added that she is having a Gardening for Dummies May 16th at 6pm in the Community Center. Uthe asked how the time change went at the Farmers Market. Willadsen responded that it's working really well and hasn't heard much complaints. The staff is working on updating signs within Hiawatha.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Charles Uthe, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Dan Wilkes, Chairperson

_____

ATTEST: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

_____