Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Business:

MSA Comprehensive Park Plan Final Draft Approval: Attached you will find the final draft of the updated Comprehensive Park Plan. With your approval MSA will present the draft at the June 19th Council Meeting.

Comprehensive Park Plan Goals: With our updated Comprehensive Park Plan complete, we have taken the feedback and broken it down to goals and objectives of how we will move forward in the next ten years. We want to utilize this plan as a guide to help us complete projects and update our parks and programs. Please see the attached document and let me know if you have additional feedback.

Cancellation Program Fee: With the fiscal year coming to an end, we have been monitoring our program refunds. In the past few years we have had over $1,000.00 in refunds. When we process a registration online, we do not receive the total fee because of credit card processing fees. When we give a refund back, we are still giving the full refund of the registration regardless of the amount of the processing fee at the initial transaction.

We reached out to Waukee, Grinnell, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, and Marion to see what kind of refund policies they have. All of which have a refund fee ranging from $4.00-$10.00 or in other cases a percentage of the program fee. We have provided a chart below for you to see the differences.

Community	Refund Processing Fee	Percentage (if applicable)
Cedar Rapids	$4.00 refund processing fee	
Marion	$10.00 refund processing fee	
Waukee	$5.00 refund processing fee, no refunds a week before program starts.	
Grinnell	$5.00 refund processing fee	
Cedar Falls	$10.00 refund processing fee, no refunds a week before program starts.	Or 40% percent whichever is greater

With the data collected I would like to recommend changing our policy to have a $5.00 refund processing fee, with no refunds given a week before a program starts or if rosters have already been created. We hope that this helps offset the cost of our processing fees to take payments vs the amount returned at the point of refund. In short, I would like to recoup some of those dollars lost in the difference.

REPORTS

Parks:

- **Tucker Park Splash Pad:** Tucker Park splash pad is officially back open! Our park guys were able to complete the new surfacing in record time and it looks great!
- **Mowing:** All this rain made mowing difficult but the seasonal staff have done a great job going with the flow and getting as much done as they can!

Recreation:

- **Zumba 2019:** Save the date for BollyX on June 12th and Pound Fit on July 10th at 6pm in the Community Center.

- **Whispering Pines Classes:** Bring your own snacks and beverages and learn to paint at the Hiawatha Community Center. June 19th will feature poppies. Fee is $35 cash or check only. To register text Donita at 319-270-1112 Check Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Facebook to see what July's class will be!

- **Motivational Mondays sponsored by True North**: June 10 – Strong by ZUMBA, June 17 – Yoga with Amy, June 24 - HIIT with Kim, July 1 – PiYo with Denise, July 8 – Strong by ZUMBA. All start at 6pm in the Community Center

- **Soccer:** 84 kids and 27 parents are participating in soccer this year! We've separated the three and four-year olds from the five and six-year olds and added a fourth field at Tucker. Pictures were taken by PortraitEFX on the first night. Hopefully the weather holds off and we have a great season!

- **Blastball:** Blastball is a fast-paced action game for kids ages 3-5 that has all the excitement that t-ball lacks. This program teaches baseball/softball fundamentals: hitting, throwing and fielding. They will also learn teamwork and sportsmanship offering a lot of fun for players as well as parents. Did we mention the base HONKS?! Sessions will consist of practices and scrimmages. 56 kids are signed up for the programs so far. Deadline to register is June 15th.

- **Tennis:** Two kids are signed up for Tot's this session. Sign up for the second (and last) session ends July 8th. If you know of any kids ages 4 to 13 who might be interested in playing tennis on Wednesday nights, send them our way!

- **Live Healthy Iowa Kids Track Meet:** This event was cancelled on May 18th due to severe weather. We planned to reschedule on May 28th, but mother nature just didn't want us to host the event. We will work with Cedar Rapids and Marion to determine if we will continue the event in the future.

- **Lids for Kids:** Thanks to the Iowa Association of Justice, Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation fit over 50 kids with new helmets at the Farmers Market on June 2nd. We thought this was a great change from the Bike Rodeo in years past with much more exposure for the group as families are already gathered in the area. We look forward to having this event at the farmers market for years to come.

- **Adventure Camp:** Adventure camp will start on June 10th with 50 kids registered for each session. The staff is ready to go and everything has been scheduled. We are hoping for some better weather as we progress through the summer. We will be using City Hall and Hiawatha Elementary as storm shelters.

- **Ride to Wrigley:** The bus is full! 56 baseball fans will head to Chicago on June 21st to watch the Cubs take on the Mets at Wrigley Field. We're crossing our fingers for good weather!

- **Farmers Market:** The market is amazing. There's a variety of vendors and it's so full! It's visually appealing. Stop out when you can. Sundays from 10am to 1pm.

- **Red Cross Babysitting Course:** American Red Cross Babysitter's Training will provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. Participants are required to bring a sack lunch.

  Date: Friday, June 28
  Time: 9am – 3pm
  Place: Hiawatha Community Center
  Age: 11-15-years-old
  Register: www.hiawatha-iowa.com

- **Big Dog in Town:** On Wednesday, June 5th council approved us to move forward with the Big Dog in Town fundraising event. The information will be posted in the City Newsletter for June. We will take nominations for the month and have voting started during the month of July. We are excited for the opportunity and hope it sparks some interest! Let the fun begin!

Comprehensive Park Plan Goals and Objectives

To provide multi-generational recreational opportunities within the community as the City is comprised of persons of all ages.

a. To provide activities for each of the major age and activity groups. (Adults & Children 3-6 years based on report)

b. To provide activities and experiences that can be enjoyed together with persons of multiple ages.

c. To allow for all persons of multiple generations, extended family groups, and large groups to universally enjoy the parks by providing park features for all ages. (Trail connections, new playground equipment, lighting etc.)

To provide recreational facilities for persons of all abilities both mentally and physically.

a. To develop new facilities that will expand recreational opportunities for all residents. (NW Territory Park)

b. To develop new facilities, and renovate existing facilities, that will meet or exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA) (Paths to all destinations, appropriate signage, proper slopes and heights)

c. To develop new facilities that integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and to not cause separation of users based on abilities.

d. Partner with outside organizations to help provide programming for people with disabilities.

To retain all existing park lands for the use and enjoyment of residents while facing growth and increased public usage.

a. To retain existing recreational lands for recreational use.

b. To maintain the park facilities at a level consistent to the uses and desires of the community based on the Comprehensive Park plan data.

c. To make improvements to the parks based on the Comprehensive Park Plan.

a. To acquire additional park land to fall within the National standards of 12 acres per 1,000 residents.

To continue the development of the Trail System within the City for the purpose of providing healthy lifestyles through exercise, enjoyment of the environment, and as a transportation system linking homes, schools, parks, and commercial areas.

a. Align trail connections with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) trail plan to connect residents to surrounding amenities within the community.

b. To connect all neighborhoods to surrounding Hiawatha Parks providing safe crossings and trails. (18th Ave to Fay Clark Park, Boyson Rd crossings, side trail on Emmons Street, Install RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon) at existing crossings where applicable for pedestrian safety.)

c. Update City Trail map on GIS program to determined where trail connections are needed and unsafe areas that need attention.

To seek cooperative efforts with nearby Cities/businesses to provide the public with parks, recreation facilities, programming and special events.

a. Continue to seek new, and support existing partnerships with local Cities/businesses for the development and operation of parks and recreation to further enhance and diversify programs, leagues and special events available to our residents.
b. To align programming and special events with local and national trends.
c. To increase areas of revenue to align with the Nation norm of $21.00 per capita of a population 7,000-10,000 (ours standing at $17.14).

To increase public awareness and knowledge of the recreational opportunities which exist for the City residents and visitors.

a. Develop promotional brochures and materials with information within parks and recreation annually.

b. Utilize the City's website to provide access to electronic versions of information.

c. Inform residents through the monthly Hiawatha Newsletter on any upcoming programs and special events.

Improve maintenance and operational efficiency throughout the park system

a. Regularly inspect park facilities and playground equipment.

b. Utilize the GIS tool as a means to increase efficiency.