Hiawatha Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2017

Deb Thies called the meeting to order at 6:06p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers. Present: Brandon Lynch, Deb Theis, Dan Wilkes, Dawn Ewoldt Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director, Ambyr Young, Administrative Coordinator, Kim Downs, City Administrator and Mark Parmenter, City Attorney. Guests: Dan Hoffman and Dan Gogel.
Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Brandon Lynch to approve the February 14, 2017 agenda as amended. Motion carried.
Motion by Brandon Lynch, second by Dan Wilkes to approve the minutes of January 10, 2017. Motion carried.

Chairperson:

Chair and Vice Chair's terms have ended for the 2016 year. Recommendations were made to nominate Deb Thies as Chair, she accepted. Recommendations were made to nominate Dan Wilkes as the Vice Chair. He accepted.
Motion made by Dan Wilkes, second by Brandon Lynch to elect Deb Thies as Chairperson for the 2017 year. Motion carried.
Motion made by Deb Thies, second by Brandon Lynch to elect Dan Wilkes as Vice Chairman for the 2017 year. Motion carried.

Dog Park Recommendation to Council

Last year Dave Wright entertained the idea of a dog park within Hiawatha. Subaru is a big supporter of Dog Parks within each City they reside in. Dave has talked to Kim Downs, City Administrator and Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, about the land he owns adjacent to his new auto detailing building and the Cedar Valley Trail that he believes would be a great location for future development. He mentioned he has no use for the land in the future that is appraised at 1.5 acres. Next to his land is a piece of land owned by Linn County Conservation, this too is equivalent to 1.5 acres.

In conjunction to Dave's 1.5 acres he has requested to swap land with Kainz Park which is equivalent to about .5 acres. The City has looked at the utilization of Kainz Park and has only had one confirmed rental each year over the last three years. Dave would allow the City to come up with an agreement to keep it a park as long as he has no plans for the lot (which could be 2 to 3 more years). When the time is right we would be able to move the shelter to another park where we think would be beneficial. Right now, Parks Maintenance mows and maintains Kainz, by swapping, those dollars would be transferred over to the dog park.

K9Cola is an organization that helps with other area dog parks in the corridor. They believe with a town our size we can eliminate permitting fees and place the responsibilities in the pet owner's

hands. The City of Mount Vernon currently does not permit for their park and has had no issues since they have been open September of 2013.

During Spring of 2016, Kim Downs, City Administrator, Dave Wright, Linn County Conservation and Kelly Willadsen sat down and discussed the possibilities of partnering on this project. Linn County Conservation Directors are very much in favor of the idea and would allow the City to use the land; small dog section and large dog section, parking, and access from the trail head to build a 3 acre park. The county would like the City to address additional parking and access from the trailhead.

The Cedar Valley Trail runs adjacent to the two properties. We found that the best access for the dog park would be right across from the trail head. Users would cross the trail to enter and make it as short of walk as possible so that park goers don't disturb other recreational trail users while entering. The proposed plan is to make a path down to the park from the trail head and add additional concrete next to the restrooms for a path that county has requested.

The City also looked at the surrounding neighborhoods that circle the property; our thought' is to keep a 15ft tree line outlining the property providing a barrier.

The County had concerns with the parking availability. Many bikers, joggers and walkers park at the Boyson Trail head on the weekends and in the summer months, they were afraid they would run out of parking space on a busy weekend if there are excess dog park users. Chief Marks and his staff monitored the parking lot for 3 weeks from July 22 through August 12 between the time slots of 7:00am-9:00am and 5:30pm-7:30pm which we believe are peak times for dog park users. On average there were ~15 cars in the morning and ~17 cars in the evening out of a parking lot that can hold at least 120 vehicles. We also have Kainz drive to hold additional parking as it allows parking on both sides. As of right now it is hard to tell how much use the park could get. County Conservation asked if the City would consider additional parking on the empty lot along Boyson Road on the Southside near the railroad tracks that belongs to the City. City officials agreed that idea was feasible because it would be used for vet memorial parking.

In addition, Kelly Willadsen and Kim Downs have also talked with Chief Marks and Chief Nesslage about the location and the safety. They both believe there will not be additional patrolling/responsibilities of the location. If needed, there is enough access to drive back to the location if necessary from the Cedar Valley Trail.

Over the last four years the City have received a hand full of requests from residents current/new if we had a dog park or whether we had thought about adding one to the community. With the reactions we received we originally place the construction of a dog park in the CIP for future years. Once Dave Wright approached the City with the support of the costs we took it off the CIP in FY16.

Recently our City Survey asked the question pertaining to the need for a Dog Park and the priority. You will see that 29% High Priority and Medium aligns with No Opinion at 31%, ending up being a 50/50 outcome. As a City, we are not funding this project we are only maintaining it once it's completed. Dave Wright has presented an opportunity to pay for the project in its entirety with low annual maintenance costs.

After the dog park is constructed the City will be responsible to maintaining the park. It is believed to take the park maintenance department less than 10 hours a week for the maintenance of the park.

Peterson Pet Hospital that will be new to Hiawatha in 2017 and would like to partner on helping maintain this park if council agrees to move forward. They know that their clientele will be using the park and would like to be involved in giving back to the community.

Right now the City is not planning on installing lights in the area, hours will be from sunrise to sunset to ensure safety of our patrons.

Kim Downs, City Administrator, advised that the City of Hiawatha is no more liable for injuries at the dog park than at of the other parks. Kelly advised that the only negatives she's heard of is in Cedar Rapids they permit for their parks but that we'd like to avoid that if possible. There will be rules and regulations posted before entering so that pet owners are aware to enter at their own risk.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Dawn Ewoldt to request to council to council to approve the proposed dog park. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Community Center Audio Visual:** The audio system in the Community Center is now complete and the sound has been fixed. We are happy to have the project completed.
- **Kids Movie Night:** March 10th will be the next kids movie night featuring the Secret Life of Pets. This will be the last spring movie night until fall. Movie Starts at 6:30pm. Dan Wilkes spoke with Hiawatha PTA and mentioned he'd like to see the City, Library and PTA collaborate on movies in the future.
- **Taste of Italy Cooking Class:** Five registered for our first ever cooking class in the Community Center. Participants learned to make noodles out of veggies, a five minute flat bread and a refreshing salad with an Italian twist! The next cooking class will take place on April 17th from 6-8pm in the community center and students will learn how to transform fresh ingredients into delicious meals. This hands on class will show you how to work with fresh citrus zest and ginger. We will make a cake in the microwave and a healthy appetizer. Bring your own drink. Registration is $35.
- **Pinterest Party Cork n Craft:** Here's a great idea for a girls night in... Cork and Craft Pinterest party! It's a fun way to get friends together to eat, gab, and craft. Who doesn't love Pinterest? And who doesn't pin crafts they'll probably never make? Well, here's a way to fix that! Lead by Laura Himschoot, we'll work together to make fun crafts that you can keep for your own or give as a gift. We'll provide all of the supplies and clean up the mess! You just need to pre-register and show up. Space is limited, so gather your friends and register today! BYOB! Fee: $25.00 March 7th: String Art 6-9pm in the Hiawatha Community Center.
- **Zumba:** Join us in the Hiawatha Community Center to try something new and burn some calories too! Brooke Lenz, Zumba certified instructor, will get you in the groove as you

dance for 30 minutes and have some fun! Come try it out for FREE! March 9 and April 13(5:30-6:00pm). The first two classes have had around 15 people.

- **Lil Cougar Dance Clinic:** 52 participants in this year's dance clinic! This is by far the best year we've had! The little dancers learned a new routine and made lots of friends. We are looking forward to having this event again in 2018.
- **Candlelight Yoga:** We had nearly 20 people show up to our January Candlelight Yoga! If you missed out, don't fret. There's additional dates' coming up. Here's the information to know what to expect. Wind down with a gentle Yoga flow in this sixty minute restorative class led by Kayla Davis. This restorative class will stretch your body and release the stress of the hectic week. Opening your body and mind, you will leave calmer, relaxed, and more present. This takes place Feb 23, March 30, and April 27. Preregistration is $8 online or drop in is $10. Class time is 6:45pm-7:45pm in the Community Center.
- **Kids in the Kitchen:** Children will make their own pizza and decorate a giant cookie all while learning kitchen safety. Children will get to take home their very own pizza stone for future use! March 6th at 6pm $25 in the Community Center.
- **Super Sitters:** This is our third year hosting Super Sitters in the Hiawatha Community Center. Michelle Altimaier from Mercy Medical Center and her assistant will be teaching a certified babysitter class through the American Red Cross. This takes place on March 15th from 8:30am to 2:30pm. Fee is $20.
- **Ride to Wrigley:** The bus to see the Cubs vs the Cardinals is full! We have started a waiting list if anyone is interested.
- **Dan Gogel:** With the approval from council on February 15th, Dan will be our new park board member. Dan will be joining us next month, here is a little bit about him:

I grew up in the small town of Anamosa, Iowa. The middle child of 7, I have always enjoyed being involved and meeting new people. I was active in sports from an early age and continued throughout high school lettering in football, wrestling, golf, and baseball. I attended the University of Iowa and received my B.S. in Psychology.

I am currently working at GreatAmerica Financial as a Vendor Relationship Manager. I have been married for three years to my wife Katie. We have a 2 year old son named Duke with another on the way. Katie, Duke, and I moved to Hiawatha just over a year ago and have enjoyed our time here. We very much look forward to raising our children and helping them grow into active participants in their community. I am also involved with a non-profit organization (Chelsey's Dream Foundation) where we work to help adoptive parents offset costs of their adoptions.

I am interested in joining the parks and recreation department because I believe community is important. I have always enjoyed meeting new people and want to be a part of events that will bring our community together. As a kid I was fortunate to be involved in a lot of activities and I would like to help create those same positive memories for others.

Motion by Dawn Ewoldt, second by Brandon Lynch, to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Deb Thies, Chairperson

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ATTEST: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director

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