Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

****With no business to approve this month we will have our next meeting on April 9th at 6:15pm.****

Recreation Reports:

- **Farmers Market Meeting:** We will be having our annual Hiawatha Farmers Market meeting on March 22nd at 6:30pm in the Community Center. We have been working with Back in Line, Horizons, HACAP and the Mount Mercy Enactus group to encourage individuals and families with SNAP benefits to buy fresh produce at our Farmers Market. This program will be explained to the vendors at the meeting for anyone that is interested. We hope that the layout will continue to be a positive change and vendors will continue to see the benefits. Farmers Market numbers and handicap stalls will be updated. Save the date! The first market is April 29th!
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** The Annual Hiawatha Easter Egg Hunt is a fun, family event filled with surprises! Eggs will be spread in the grass at Guthridge Park. Children will also get to visit with the Hiawatha Easter Bunny. Event is held rain or shine. This event is sponsored by Roasters Coffee House. We will need volunteers for this event starting at 7:45am. March 31st event will start at 9am in Guthridge Park.
- **Live Healthy Iowa 5K:** Saturday, April 14th at 8:00 a.m. in Guthridge Park the City of Hiawatha Parks & Recreation have once again partnered with Live Healthy Iowa to host 1 of 14 5K races around the state of Iowa in conjunction with the Live Healthy Iowa 10 Week Challenge. This partnership is a collaborative effort in a way to combat Iowa's growing obesity problem and to make strides toward the goal of making Iowa the healthiest state in the nation! The 5K will begin at 8:00a.m. with a kids 1K to follow at 9:00a.m. Register at LiveHealthyIowa.com We will need volunteers for this event specifically for registration, handing out medals and post-race refreshments.
- **Free Fitness Classes:** Twelve dancers showed up to Belly Dance on Valentine's Day with our new Zumba instructor Tara Allen! These free classes take place the second Wednesday of every month! The next class is March 14th which will be Strong by Zumba and April 11th and they will be doing regular Zumba.
- **Whispering Pines Classes:** Donita and friends will be again on March 21st in the Hiawatha Community Center at 6pm. This month she will be offering a mandala painting. Fee is $35 cash or check only. To register text Donita at 319-270-1112. The next class takes place April 18th, stay tuned for the craft of the month.
- **Yoga 2018**: Twenty-two yogis showed up for our second free yoga of the year. These take place on the last Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Hiawatha Community Center. The next class takes place March 29th.

- **Spring Conference**: March 27-29th School is in session for Ambyr and I at the 2018 Iowa Park and Recreation Association Conference! This year, they are offering **29 education sessions** including new early bird sessions, plus two off-site institutes, the annual scholarship silent auction, awards banquet and golf outing. Conference is a time for Ambyr and I to bring back new ideas for our community and network with other Iowa Professionals before our busy season begins.
- **Chase Norton Memorial:** April 15, 2018 Come enjoy a great disc golf tournament at Fay Clark Park. The annual Hiawatha Open kicks off the year for disc golfers throughout the eastern Iowa corridor. Find more information at www.iowadiscgolf.net.
- **Lacrosse:** Learn to play the next up and coming sport in the Midwest, Lacrosse! This new clinic will introduce children to the basics of lacrosse in a non-contact format. Learn the skills of shooting, passing, catching, cradling, stick handling, running, and general agility. Children will also be introduced to basic game format and rules of the game. Limited number of spots available. Once the clinic is complete your child has the opportunity to participate in a community scrimmage with Center Point, Hiawatha and Vinton Parks and Recreation. **Clinic #1:** April 3rd and 5th at Hiawatha Elementary Gym 6-7pm **Clinic #2**: April 10th and 12th at Nixon Elementary Gym 4-5pm All Clinics encouraged to attend scrimmage on April 14th - Fross Park, Center Point 1pm - 3pm 1st – 4th grade Cost: $25.00 includes t-shirt **Registration Deadline:** March 16th

Parks:

- **Trees for Kids Grant:** This grant was submitted March 1st to the Iowa DNR's Trees for Kids program. If awarded, we will be planting with Hiawatha Elementary on May 2nd at 3:45pm with their Go Green Club of 15 students. Please mark your calendars, once we hear back from the DNR I will send out more information and how we can use volunteer assistance.
- **Seasonal and Adventure Camp Posting:** Seasonal Staff positions are now posted. Please spread the word if you know of any great candidates for Park Maintenance or Adventure Camp Staff. We currently have no application submittals for the Adventure Camp leaders. Any help would be greatly appreciated as Adventure Camp sessions are both full!
- **HKL Solar Panel:** Kim Downs, Cindy Kudrna and I met with the Hiawatha Kids League board after February's meeting. Kim approached Alliant Energy and asked for their assistance in finding how much solar energy would be produced per year and the cost savings. We found that HKL would save on average about $144.00 per year, which is a lot less then the league anticipated. They will be going back to discuss with their board what their purpose is weather it is a green aniciative or cost savings project.
- **Dog Park:** We are still waiting on Linn County to put action on their agenda and approve the dead restrictions and partnership agreements. Once these are approved the City will move forward with Dave Wright and approve the land agreements put together by the City Attorney.
- **Tree Trimming:** Rick and Ted have been trimming trees in the parks and taking down dead or dying trees that were on our City-Wide tree inventory.
- **Spring:** Spring is almost here! We will be preparing over the next few months to get park restrooms open, water turned on, fertilizing parks, getting seasonals hired, playgrounds inspected and so much more!