Hiawatha Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2019

Michelle McIllece called the meeting to order at 6:09p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers. Present: Michelle McIllece, Dan Wilkes, Chris Klostermann and Charles Uthe. Absent: Dawn Ewoldt Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director, Ambyr Severson, Administrative Coordinator, Kim Downs, City Administrator and Aime Wichtendahl, Council Member.

Motion by Charles Uthe, second by Chris Klostermann, to approve the February 12, 2019 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Michelle McIllece, second by Charles Uthe, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019. Motion carried.

**New Board Members:** Chris Klostermann was sworn in for a two-year term replacing Debbie Theis and Charles Uthe was sworn in for one term replacing Brandon Lynch.

**Splash Pad Surfacing at Tucker Park:** Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation advised that the surfacing at Tucker Park consists of cracks and bubbles and is in need of replacement. She mentioned that there's many different options for resurfacing; to continue with what we currently have, Aquaflex, for average cost of $57,000 for both Guthridge and Tucker, to not replace the surface at all and leave it concrete similar to Cedar Rapids splashpads or to use Tuff Coat for a quote of $4,799 similar to Palo's splashpad. She continued by saying that the upside to Tuff Coat is not only the cost but our staff can apply it also. Michelle McIllece asked why our current surfacing is so costly. Willadsen advised that Aquaflex is its own surface. It consists of pebbles and the company has to apply it. The cost is unrealistic for the department's budget. Willadsen recommended the board to allow the department to purchase Tuff Coat as it is cost effective, user friendly and will still be inviting to users with it's colorful surface.

Motion made by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe to purchase Tuff Coat at $4,799 for splashpad resurfacing. Motion carried.

**Amateur Radio Field Day 2019:** Willadsen advised that Amateur Radio Field Day has been utilizing Clark Park for the last three years and would like to use it again this year. AARL would like to extend the hours of the park to 24 hours for the dates of June 21 through June 23 for their event as they've done in years past. Their group has never been a problem and the department would like to handle ARRL's requests internally in the future.

Motion made by Charles Uthe, second by Chris Klostermann, to approve the request to extend Clark Park's hours for all day on June 21 – 23, 2019. Motion carried.

Motion made by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe to allow Parks and Recreation staff to consider approving this event internally for years to come. Motion carried.

**Friends Foundation Tucker Park Project:** Willadsen informed the group that the Friends Foundation works with the department to purchase Adventure Camp's field trips, bussing fees, park equipment and more. During our ICAP inspection Tucker Park had the most need for updated equipment. The Hiawatha Parks

and Recreation Friends Foundation agreed to purchase $13,000 worth of equipment with additional grants and will apply up to $16,000 if grants were not acquired. 85% of this project will be funded by nonprofits including Friends Foundation, Hi-Crew Kiwanis and Iowa Parks and Recreation Foundation. The department is looking forward to adding ADA compliant equipment, expanding the playground and increasing the footprint.

**Optimizing Park and Recreation Assets:** Willadsen and Downs attended a webinar on how to optimize and bring more money into the city. The reassessed and compared our city to other cities our size to see what they offer. Downs asked are we putting our dollars in the right place? Fresh eyes plus history will help. Willadsen advised the comprehensive plan will help to determine if our dollars are going to the right place once it's presented. Together they met with Discovery Living and contemplated how they can provide programming for everyone and create a public/private partnership. Additionally, the department is looking into how to save and expand current programs and events, enhance technology, stay up to date with the CIP and move items or projects as necessary. The overall goal is to see what residents of Hiawatha want.

**Dog Park Bridge:** The dog park is under construction and the tree removal project is underway. Linn County Chainsaw response team has been removing trees and has a couple more weekends to get everything cleared out before stump removal begins. The bridge was approved by council and will be constructed after stumps are removed. The bridge is being constructed at the requests of Linn County Conservation who advised the dogs are not to be walked on the trail. Bridge construction should begin in late March or early April with the entire park projected to be complete in late fall. Petersen Pet Hospital will be donating benches and Dave Wright Nissan Subaru donated $100,000 to the project.

**MSA Park Study:** The parks master plan is in full swing. We received 183 responses to our survey and it was broken down into sections to lay it out for the people on the steering committee. The next meeting is February 27 at 5:30pm.

**Community Center A/V Update:** The Community Center was updated with touch screens and HDMI ports in 2017 but at that time the projectors did not need replaced. This month we replaced our projectors to enhance the reservations who utilize them for graduation parties, weddings and more. To avoid pulling the funds from our budgets in the future, we've placed them on a reserve to have them replaced on schedule much like our mowers and other equipment.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Charles Uthe, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Dan Wilkes, Chairperson

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ATTEST: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

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