Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

F17

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: April 20, 2017

Re: **Amateur Radio Field Day at Clark Park**

Amateur Radio Field Day at Clark Park: ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is an education event that is self sufficient and teaches Amateurs to operate in abnormal situations in case of emergency instances.

June 23-25th the local Amateur Group in the Hiawatha/Cedar Rapids area would like to use Clark Park as a designated location for their Field Day for the second year. With that said, it would require that Fay Clark Park stay open 24 hours, past our 10PM curfew. There would be 24 hours shifts that these Amateurs would cover to connect with as many stations as possible that weekend (the whole objective of the event). The park would still be open to the public besides the disc golf course. They would love the public to come out and see what the event is all about (including public officials).

The Amateurs would need to set up portable antennas that would be between 30-40ft high, have access to park grounds and use the pavilion as a base location. They would make sure everything is taken down and back to its original condition.

This group carries insurance and is very self efficient. If there are any issues, we will be working hand in hand with the organizers to make sure the park is back in its original condition. Last year we had no issues with them during the entire weekend event, they cleaned up to our expectations and checked in to make sure everything was passed by staff.

Attached you will see the memo with further details given by the Amateur Radio Club.

The Parks and Recreation Commission made a motion at the April 11th meeting to allow the Amateur Radio Field Day to take place in Clark Park from June 23-25th past 10pm curfew hours pending the approval from the Hiawatha City Council on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017.

To: Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Commission,
CC: Mayor and Hiawatha City Council
Subject: Field Day 2017 at Fay M. Clark Memorial Park

The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club is requesting to use Clark Park for (ARRL) Field Day 2017 the weekend of June 23-25, 2017. Set-up of antennas and equipment will begin Friday afternoon June 23rd and continue until focus shifts to operating 24 hours starting Saturday June 24th at 1:00 PM CDT (weather permitting). Tear-down and clean-up will happen right after operations end, and should be finished by early afternoon Sunday June 25th. This will be our third year using this location for Field Day operations.

As we have done in the last two years we again ask to be allowed to use Clark Park for Field Day operations, it is our intent to keep people at the park overnight past the normal park hours: Friday night to stand watch due to equipment already in place, and Saturday night operating on the air.

We ask that the disc golf course be closed for this period of time – at a minimum for the portions of the course that will have people and equipment. (We use flagging materials to make the antennas and any guy lines very visible for everyone's safety.) The ARRL rules for Field day state all antennas and equipment must fall within a 1000 foot diameter circle, this could allow a few parts of the disc golf course outside this area to remain usable if desired.

CVARC also plans to continue to minimize the impact of moving some heavy items across the park and allow access to those with physical limitations with very limited use of ATVs, UTVs, and/or garden tractors. It is our intent to keep this a welcoming and inclusive event for all and leave the park as we found it prior to setup since we really like this location.

Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions, thank you for considering this request.
Daniel Hoffmann N0XZK

About CVARC: The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) is a non-profit organization registered in the state of Iowa. Our mission is to promote amateur radio activities in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa regional area. Our organization is dedicated to:

- Promoting interest in radio as a means of communication
- Providing educational programs and exhibits
- Contributing, in general, to the advancement of radio communications
- Training radio operators in the interest of national defense and emergencies
- Supplying and operating communication equipment during emergencies and as a general public service
- Assisting with elimination of interference to radio and television reception from all sources and particularly from amateur radio and communications equipment

As a function of these goals, CVARC is affiliated and works closely with the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), Linn County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), and the Linn County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

What is ARRL Field Day?

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 171,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it's grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org

Updated: 1/2017

Disc Golf Course Users:

This park is being used for a national emergency communications activity – Amateur Radio Field Day.

Please avoid using the portions of the course near the various antennas, cables and shelters – this still leaves free many portions around the edge of the park that can still be used for disc golf.

If you wish to learn about Amateur Radio, feel free to ask – information is also available that you can take home at the pavilion where you can also operate at our Get-On-The-Air station.

Thank You for your understanding.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 17-
City Council

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMATEUR RADIO FIELD DAY AT CLARK PARK ON JUNE 23-25, 2017

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department received a request from a local radio amateur group in the Hiawatha/Cedar Rapids area for the use of Clark Park as a designated location for their amateur radio field day, and

WHEREAS, the amateur radio field day will require Clark Park to stay open for 24 hours past the 10:00 p.m. curfew and the amateur radio group will cover the event in shifts, set up portable antennas between 30-40 feet high, and have access to park grounds and use of the pavilion as a base location, and ensure everything is restored to its original condition once the event is over; during the event Clark Park will remain open to the public excluding use the disc golf course, and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2017, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended City Council approval of the use of Clark Park for 24 hours past the 10:00 p.m. curfew to hold the amateur radio field day on June 23-25, 2017, and

WHEREAS, City Council supports a amateur radio field day in recognition of the most popular on-the-air event held annually in June in the United States and Canada, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA to approve the use of Clark Park for 24 hours past the 10:00 p.m. curfew as outlined above to hold the amateur radio field day on June 23-25, 2017.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of May, 2017.

_____
Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk