



# HIAWATHA PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

## Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Approval of:
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Minutes of Past Meetings

**Minutes:**

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Heather Gibson, to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021. Motion carried.

3. Business

- a. Elect New Chair for 2022

**Minutes:**

Chair and Vice Chair's terms have ended for the 2021 year. Recommendations were made to nominate Heather Gibson as Chair, she accepted. Recommendations were made to nominate Chris Klostermann as Vice Chair. She accepted. Motion by Michelle McIllece, second by Dan Wilkes to elect Heather Gibson as Chairperson and Chris Klostermann as Vice Chairman for the 2022 year. Motion carried.

- b. Trail Master Plan

**Minutes:**

Willadsen informed the commission that one of the main priorities named in the 2019 strategic plan was trail connectivity. The completion of the trail master plan will allow the department to apply for grants and allocate dollars in the CIP for future plans. After the commission recommends approval of the trail master plan to council, they accept and then we will have a kickoff meeting. McIllece asked if the \$10,000 fee was to MSA? Willadsen advised that in fact is the fee and reminded the commission that MSA has completed Turtle Creek Park's plans, Derecho clean up, Park Plan Vision and City Comprehensive plan so they have a lot of knowledge of Hiawatha. Motion by Michelle McIllece to recommend to council the approval of MSA's Trail System Master Plan at \$10,000, seconded by Chris Klostermann. Motion carried.

- c. Park and Community Center Rates for 2022

**Minutes:**

Willadsen advised that the City Manager and Council look over revenue streams yearly. In order to stay comparable to nearby cities she recommends increasing the Community Center fee by \$25 and increasing the Park Pavilion fees by \$10.

She stressed that the goal is not to increase the fee but to stay consistent with nearby communities and communities of our size.

Motion by Michelle McIllece to increase the Community Center fees by \$25 and the Park Pavilion fees by \$10, seconded by Heather Gibson. Motion carried.

#### 4. Monthly Park and Recreation Reports

##### **Minutes:**

**Parks: Ice Rink:** Our ice rink has been set up for the 2nd year. We are still battling the tennis court slope and a punctured ice rink liner but it is frozen and ready for play! The ice rink opened on January 4th.

**Snow Removal:** Welcome to winter! Our department's responsibilities for snow removal include the city sidewalks, Parking lots for City Hall, Library, Fire and Police, along with the park trails and parking lots. The priority is to clear sidewalks and lots first and then focus our attention on the parks.

**Full-Time Park Maintenance Position:** We will be reposting our vacant park maintenance position at the end of January with hopes to get someone in the door by the end of February to prepare for the spring.

**Community Center Restroom Partitions:** When the Parks and Street Departments aren't busy clearing snow, they are working in house making updates and making repairs. Over the last month they have been replacing restroom partitions in the community center. It has been a bigger project than we all imagined. The men's restroom will be completed next week and the women's will be tackled the first week in January.

**Recreation: Merry and Bright Holiday Home Decorating Contest:** Congratulations to 120 Northwood Drive for being selected as the 2021 Making Spirits Bright Holiday Home Decorating Contest WINNER! Santa even made a guest appearance! Thank you to everyone who participated! The winner received a \$150 Visa Gift Card provided by the Friends of Hiawatha Park and Recreation Foundation.

**Pound Fitness:** We continue to offer free Pound Fitness classes in the Community Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM! We look forward to offering another year of Free fitness to our Community.

**Letters from Santa:** This year we sent out 34 Letters from Santa this year with the furthest letter being sent to Colorado.

**New Programming for 2022**

**Mount Mercy Dance Clinic:** Come Dance with the Mount Mercy University Dance Team! No Experience, No Worries! We will learn a short age-appropriate routine, teach basic and advanced dance skills and perform for a family audience.

**Date:** Sunday, March 27th **Time:** 1:00pm - 3:00pm with the last half hour for a family performance. **Location:** Hiawatha Community Center **Cost:** \$30.00 **Ages:** 5-7 and 8-10

**Snapology:** We are so excited to offer Snapology of Hiawatha classes in the Hiawatha Community Center this year! Snapology engages children ages 2-14 using LEGO® bricks, K'Nex and technology. While the kids are having fun with familiar toys, laptops and iPads, Snapology sneaks in the learning. Shh, don't tell them it's educational!

Registration is open! Sign up today at

<https://embed.snapology.com/licensee/147/events/location>

NFL Flag Football: Backed by the NFL with an emphasis on football fundamentals and community involvement, NFL FLAG empowers youth girls and boy athletes across the nation. The NFL's official flag football league is the largest organization of its kind in the United States. NFL FLAG provides official NFL-branded team gear that allows you to represent all 32 NFL teams in your new league. This program will be run similar to our youth Blastball and Soccer leagues with volunteer coaches as lead mentors for each team.

Summer Tennis with Coe Women's Head Coach Mike Strydom: Since the August 2020 Derecho, Westfield Tennis Club has changed ownership and is going under significant renovation. They are not offering tennis at this time until they have the resources they need to start back up. This year we will be offering tennis lessons through Coe College Women's Head Coach Mike Strydom. We are excited to bring tennis back and build our relationship with Mike.

Pickleball Summer League: Pickleball has been a fast-growing sport throughout the US. Many snow birds play down south and bring it back with them. We have had pickleball lines install on our tennis courts for the last five years. Over the last two years play has increased out at Guthridge Park and surrounding metro communities. We will be working with a few individuals that have a passion for Pickleball to get this summer's league started.

Senior Citizen Prom: Looking forward to a new event in the Hiawatha Community, by bringing our Senior Citizen's back to their youth with a fun afternoon of music, dancing and fun!

Wilkes asked if there was any vandalism?

Willadsen answered knock on wood, no. Tucker is totally different now. Pavilions are reshingled and everything looks crisp. You can see that people care.

Gibson asked if Willadsen thought the lights on the trail helped?

Willadsen replied, oh yes. The sad truth is with less trees it opened everything up and gave the park a whole new vibe.

## 5. Adjourn

### **Minutes:**

Motion by Heather Gibson to adjourn at 6:35 PM, seconded by Michelle McIllece.

Motion carried.