

**Hiawatha Parks and Recreation  
Regular Meeting  
August 10, 2021**

Chris Klostermann called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Hiawatha City Hall. Present: Dan Wilkes, Chris Klostermann and Heather Gibson. Absent: Michelle McIllece and Charles Uthe. Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, Ambyr Severson, Administrative Coordinator and Kim Downs, City Manager.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Heather Gibson, to approve the August 10, 2021 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Chris Klostermann, to approve the minutes of June 8, 2021. Motion carried.

Willadsen advised that Dusty Swehla with Panda Marie has asked to hold the Alisabeth Von Presley Concert that was cancelled during Hi-Yoga due to the weather to be held on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Guthridge Park in the Brown Pavilion from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Dusty has also asked to hold a bags tournament earlier in the day from 9-4pm. This would take place in the Guthridge Park south end parking lot of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. They would break the tournament down into two groups featuring social and experienced players. There is room for 32 teams (64 players) to sign up. We will ask for a donation for the usability of the park. They would like to have food vendors Chef Green, Boulevard and Kettle Corn attend, which they would be stationed in the same vicinity of the parking lot. As a reminder the Farmers Market will still be operating from 10am to 1pm in the central parking lot of 10<sup>th</sup> avenue. We will have market visitors park in the north lot and bags participants park over at the 7<sup>th</sup> avenue lot.

Gibson asked if that will be during the fall market?

Willadsen replied the Fall Festival will be October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Klostermann asked if there is going to be a meeting?

Willadsen replied that there would be a meeting to go over rules before on the morning of the event.

Klostermann asked if there would be a donation for staff time?

Willadsen replied that the donation would be for staff time to have someone available the day of to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Motion by Dan Wilkes to approve the request for Hi-Yoga's makeup concert in the park and bags tournament on October 24, 2021, seconded by Chris Klostermann. Motion carried.

Willadsen advised that the department has had an idea for a tailgate in the park for years with the help of the Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation it will finally happen on Friday, October 1st for the Iowa VS. Maryland Football Game that airs at 7:00pm on FS1. The Foundation just purchased a new inflatable 20ft screen with audio that they would set up near the bandshell and live stream the game. It would be a free event to the community with some games and food vendors on site. ImOn is sponsoring the event by providing a direct line to the internet as it is more reliable than wifi. We are working on the legalities that come a long with it. We've been in contact with KGAN, FS1 and the Big10 to obtain permissions but haven't had much luck hearing back from them.

Wilkes added that no good deed goes undone.

Willadsen replied that because it is a City event, we want to make sure we are crossing our x's and o's. No other community has offered an event like this in the area and if it goes well, she hopes that it can happen annually.

Gibson asked if we're looking into the legalities with food and drinks?

Willadsen replied we would be offering the free event and other entities would serve the food and drinks so the legalities would be on them.

Motion by Chris Klostermann to approve the Tailgate in the Park on October 1, 2021, seconded by Heather Gibson. Motion carried.

Willadsen advised that Turtle Creek Park bids are being opened tomorrow at 2:00PM. She hopes that costs come in low enough to include the splashpad in this phase. Either way construction should start September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The plaza is moving slower than expected. The brick for the restroom facility was delivered August 3<sup>rd</sup>, so you will begin to see walls constructed and a building take shape. We anticipate this project to wrap up near the end of September with most of the main structures in place; bollards and lighting are on backorder with no official date at this time. We hope to have the whole project complete by Thanksgiving.

Don't visit Tucker Park yet. Delivery of playground poles has been an ongoing delay due to not having truck drivers to deliver. They are expected to be in Hiawatha on August 8<sup>th</sup>, we are crossing our fingers they get here. Our installers will be on site once the delivery makes it here. As long as everything aligns correctly, they will stay on site until the playground is complete. We are looking at completion the end of August if all goes accordingly.

The Park and Rec Friends Foundation will be donating 2 new drinking fountains for our parks. These will be the bottle filler fountains and replace Clark and Guthridge first. They plan to donate a couple each year. This will be a great addition for our park users. Each fountain costs nearly \$5,000.00.

Wilkes added that's a shocking amount for a faucet.

Willadsen responded that everything has skyrocketed over the last few years.

We will be bringing back Fun Fest for 2021! It may be scaled back for this year, but we are grateful to bring people back to the park for an evening of fun. We will have a concert in the park featuring Compass Rose Band on Friday, August 6th with concessions by the Kiwanis Club and balloon twisters. We are also having a movie after the concert! On Saturday we will eliminate the parade and day activities and start our evening off with a dance performance by Dancers Edge, a concert in the park by Mix Tape, concessions, and fireworks to end the evening.

For the safety of our residents and community members the committee thought it would be best to limit activities earlier in the year, but provide concerts where we know we can space people out adequately. There will be spray painted flowers in the grass to show the City is promoting social distancing.

The City is currently working with Trees Forever on a Fall Tree Distribution event for our Hiawatha Residents. We will be hosting an event on September 26th from 11am-1pm at the Kirkwood Regional Parking Lot. There will be 5 different tree species to select from online with a total of 400 trees for our event. The online store will open on Labor Day and close September 20th. Residents will be able to purchase up to two trees for their

property and will pick their trees up at the event on September 26th. Postcards will be mailed to residents about the opportunity along with a Save the Date in the Hiawatha Insights. Keep an eye out for more information. If you are interested in volunteering that day, please let us know.

HiBRAI is up to 65 riders. There are so many great sponsors. We'll have an update for you next month.

We are in the last week of Blastball. We've had a lot of great volunteer coaches, including a great-grandfather. The equipment has been kept in the dugout and that's worked out really well.

Adventure Camp is done and it's crazy how fast it went! We didn't have any reports of COVID-19. The staff was great and we hope to have them back next year.

Severson added that she attended TCU in Texas for a week in July and started working towards her Certified Public Communicator Certificate. She will complete a communication plan for the City of Hiawatha and return next year to receive her certificate.

She continued by explaining the soccer survey results. She said that there was only one unhappy participant among all of the feedback. Otherwise, everyone was pleased with how the program was organized and parents and children had fun. The things that staff is looking to change to improve the program is to create rules and structure around makeup dates.

Motion by Dan Wilkes to adjourn at 6:40 p.m., seconded by Chris Klostermann. Motion carried.

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Chris Klostermann, Chair

ATTEST:

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Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation