

**AGENDA**

**HIAWATHA PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

January 10th, 2017

MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Approval of:
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Minutes of past meetings – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017
3. Business:
  - a. Elect Chairs
  - b. Dog Park Recommendation to Council
4. Reports  
Monthly Park and Recreation Updates

Adjourn

# Hiawatha Parks and Recreation



**To:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**CC:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Kelly Willadsen, Park and Recreation Director  
**Date:** December 13th, 2016  
**Re:** Park and Recreation Report

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## **Business:**

**Chairperson:** A new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will need to be approved by the Commission.

**Dog Park Recommendation to Council:** Last year Dave Wright entertained the idea of a dog park within Hiawatha. Subaru is a big supporter of Dog Parks within each City they reside in. Dave has talked to Kim and I about the land he owns adjacent to his new auto detailing building and the Cedar Valley Trail that he believes would be a great location for future development. He mentioned he has no use for the land in the future that is appraised at 1.5 acres. Next to his land is a piece of land owned by Linn County Conservation, this too is equivalent to 1.5 acres.

In conjunction to Dave's 1.5 acres he has requested to swap land with Kainz Park which is equivalent to about .5 acres. We have looked at the utilization of Clark Park and have only had one confirmed rental each year over the last three years. Dave would allow us to come up with an agreement to keep it a park as long as he has no plans for the lot (which could be 2 to 3 more years). When the time is right we would be able to move the shelter to another park where we think would be beneficial. Right now, Rick and Ted mow and maintain that Kainz, by swapping, those dollars would be transferred over to the dog park.

Kim, Dave and I have researched with K9Cola the idea and have worked through the logistics of such a project. K9Cola is an organization that helps with other area dog parks in the corridor. They believe with a town our size we can eliminate permitting fees and place the responsibilities in the pet owner's hands. The City of Mount Vernon currently does not permit for their park and has had no issues since they have been open September of 2013.

During Spring of 2016, Kim, Dave Wright, Linn County Conservation and I sat down and discussed the possibilities of partnering on this project. Linn County Conservation Directors are very much in favor of the idea and would allow the City to use the land; small dog section and large dog section,

parking, and access from the trail head to build a 3 acre park. The county would like us to address additional parking and access from the trailhead.

The Cedar Valley Trail runs adjacent to the two properties. We found that the best access for the dog park would be right across from the trail head (shown on map named PATH). Users would cross the trail to enter and make it as short of walk as possible so that we don't disturb other recreational trail users while entering. We would make a path down to the park from the trail head and add additional concrete next to the restrooms for a walkable path that county has requested.

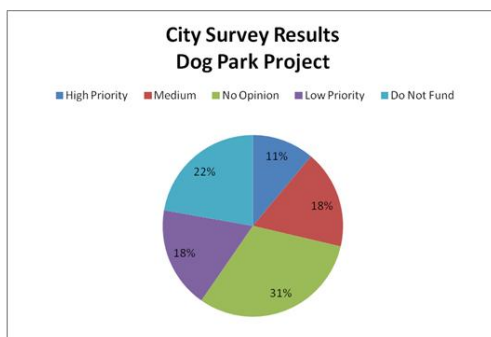
We also looked at the surrounding neighborhoods that circle the property; our thought' is to keep a 15ft tree line outlining the property providing a barrier.

The County had concerns with the parking availability. Many bikers, joggers and walkers park at the Boyson Trail head on the weekends and in the summer months, they were afraid they would run out of parking space on a busy weekend if there are excess dog park users. Chief Marks and his staff monitored the parking lot for 3 weeks from July 22 through August 12 between the time slots of 7:00am-9:00am and 5:30pm-7:30pm which we believe are peak times for dog park users. On average there were ~15 cars in the morning and ~17 cars in the evening out of a parking lot that can hold at least 120 vehicles. We also have Kainz drive to hold additional parking as it allows parking on both sides. As of right now it is hard to tell how much use we could get. County Conservation asked if we would consider additional parking on the city's empty lot along Boyson Road on the Southside near the railroad tracks. We thought that idea was doable because we would use this land for vet memorial parking.

In addition, we have also talked with Chief Marks and Chief Nesslage about the location and the safety. They both believe there will not be additional patrolling/responsibilities of the location. If needed there is enough access to drive back to the location if necessary from the Cedar Valley Trail.

Over the last four years Kim and I have received a hand full of requests from residents current/new if we had a dog park or whether we had thought about adding one to the community. With the reactions we received we originally place the construction of a dog park in the CIP for future years. Once Dave Wright approached the City with the support of the costs we took it off the CIP in FY16.

Recently our City Survey asked the question pertaining to the need for a Dog Park and the priority. You will see that 29% High Priority and Medium aligns with No Opinion at 31%, ending up being a 50/50 outcome. As a City we are not funding this project we are only maintaining it once it's completed. Dave Wright has presented an opportunity to pay for the project in its entirety with low annual maintenance costs.



After the dog park is constructed the City will be responsible to maintaining the park. We believe it will take the park maintenance department less than 10 hours a week for the maintenance of the park.

Peterson Pet Hospital that will be new to Hiawatha in 2017 has contacted us and would like to partner on helping maintain this park if council agrees to move forward. They know that their clientele will be using the park and would like to be involved in giving back to the community.

Right now we are not planning on installing lights in the area, hours will be from sunrise to sunset to ensure safety of our patrons.

For the first few months we would like to stay away from permitting fees and see how the dog park runs on its own. We will have rules and regulations before entering so that pet owners are aware.

We believe this dog park could be a great addition to the Hiawatha Community. It's a fast growing addition to many cities and helps pets get the exercise they need daily in a secure and maintained facility. With your recommendation, we will pass this on to Council for approval at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### Dog Park Overview Budget

			Total
		2,700.00ft total= 37,800 plus	
		double entry gates =	
D & N Fence Company	14.00	\$40,405.00	\$ 40,405.00
D&D tree service	per ft	Clearing of dead/dying trees	\$ 8,700.00
		2 applications at \$750.00	
		each, would require trees to	
TruGreen		be taken out first	\$ 1,500.00
		access for water from Boyson	
Water Department		Cr1	\$ 15,000
		not needed at this point,	
		hours will be from sunrise to	
Lighting		sunset	
Insurance		land and equipment per year	\$ 100.00
		Includes benches,	
		receptacles, dog agility,	
Dog Park Equipment		water fountains, signage	\$ 14,300.00
		City staff and structural	
Bridge over creek		engineer	\$ 10,000.00
Attorney Fees		Swap land	\$ 1,500.00
		2,000 bags per case x 6 per	
Pet waste bags		year	\$ 359.70
Cost for repair or damage			\$ 500.00
			<b>\$ 92,364.70</b>

Believe annual costs for maintenance would run about \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year.

## Reports:

- **Community Center Audio Visual:** The audio system in the Community Center is now complete and the sound has been fixed. We are happy to have the project completed.
- **Kids Movie Night:** March 10<sup>th</sup> will be the next kids movie night featuring the Secret Life of Pets. This will be the last spring movie night until fall. Movie Starts at 6:30pm.
- **Taste of Italy Cooking Class:** Five registered for our first ever cooking class in the Community Center. Participants learned to make noodles out of veggies, a five minute flat bread and a refreshing salad with an Italian twist! The next cooking class will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the community center and students will learn how to transform fresh ingredients into delicious meals. This hands on class will show you how to work with fresh citrus zest and ginger. We will make a cake in the microwave and a healthy appetizer. Bring your own drink. Registration is \$35.
- **Pinterest Party Cork n Craft:** Here's a great idea for a girls night in... Cork and Craft Pinterest party! It's a fun way to get friends together to eat, gab, and craft. Who doesn't love Pinterest? And who doesn't pin crafts they'll probably never make? Well, here's a way to fix that! Lead by Laura Himschoot, we'll work together to make fun crafts that you can keep for your own or give as a gift. We'll provide all of the supplies and clean up the mess! You just need to pre-register and show up. Space is limited, so gather your friends and register today! BYOB! Fee: \$25.00 March 7<sup>th</sup>: String Art 6-9pm in the Hiawatha Community Center.
- **Zumba:** Join us in the Hiawatha Community Center to try something new and burn some calories too! Brooke Lenz, Zumba certified instructor, will get you in the groove as you dance for 30 minutes and have some fun! Come try it out for FREE! March 9 and April 13(5:30-6:00pm). The first two classes have had around 15 people.
- **Lil Cougar Dance Clinic:** 52 participants in this year's dance clinic! This is by far the best year we've had! The little dancers learned a new routine and made lots of friends. We are looking forward to having this event again in 2018.
- **Candlelight Yoga:** We had nearly 20 people show up to our January Candlelight Yoga! If you missed out, don't fret. There's additional dates' coming up. Here's the information to know what to expect. Wind down with a gentle Yoga flow in this sixty minute restorative class led by Kayla Davis. This restorative class will stretch your body and release the stress of the hectic week. Opening your body and mind, you will leave calmer, relaxed, and more present. This takes place Feb 23, March 30, and April 27. Preregistration is \$8 online or drop in is \$10. Class time is 6:45pm-7:45pm in the Community Center.
- **Kids in the Kitchen:** Children will make their own pizza and decorate a giant cookie all while learning kitchen safety. Children will get to take home their very own pizza stone for future use! March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm \$25 in the Community Center.
- **Super Sitters:** This is our third year hosting Super Sitters in the Hiawatha Community Center. Michelle Altimaier from Mercy Medical Center and her assistant will be teaching a certified babysitter class through the American Red Cross. This takes place on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 2:30pm. Fee is \$20.
- **Ride to Wrigley:** The bus to see the Cubs vs the Cardinals is full! We have started a waiting list if anyone is interested.
- **Dan Gogel:** With the approval from council on February 15<sup>th</sup>, Dan will be our new park board member. Dan will be joining us next month, here is a little bit about him:

I grew up in the small town of Anamosa, Iowa. The middle child of 7, I have always enjoyed being involved and meeting new people. I was active in sports from an early age and continued throughout high school lettering in football, wrestling, golf, and baseball. I attended the University of Iowa and received my B.S. in Psychology.

I am currently working at GreatAmerica Financial as a Vendor Relationship Manager. I have been married for three years to my wife Katie. We have a 2 year old son named Duke with another on the way. Katie, Duke, and I moved to Hiawatha just over a year ago and have enjoyed our time here. We very much look forward to raising our children and helping them grow into active participants in their community. I am also involved with a non-profit organization (Chelsey's Dream Foundation) where we work to help adoptive parents offset costs of their adoptions.

I am interested in joining the parks and recreation department because I believe community is important. I have always enjoyed meeting new people and want to be a part of events that will bring our community together. As a kid I was fortunate to be involved in a lot of activities and I would like to help create those same positive memories for others.