

Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2014

President Bill Horner called the Meeting to order at 6:07p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers. Present: Dawn Ewoldt, and Deb Thies. Absent: Dan Wilkes and Lynda Hembera. Employees: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director, Kim Downs, City Administrator, Rick Wolfe, Park and Recreation Maintenance, and Ambyr Young, Recreation Coordinator. Guests: Dan Hoffman.

Motion by Dawn Ewoldt, second by Deb Thies, to approve the May 13, 2014 agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Motion by Deb Thies, second by Dawn Ewoldt, to approve the minutes of April 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Tennis Court Renewal:

Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director, went over a concern of one of the LOSST CIP projects for the upcoming fiscal year. The current project was to resurface the Guthridge Park basketball courts and install a new basketball court in Tucker Park for \$11,500.00. When tennis nets were put up this spring they noticed that the courts were starting to age. Ted Olson, Park Maintenance found they were last resurfaced in 2005. This procedure was done by Tennis Services of Iowa located in Marion, Iowa. Tennis Services of Iowa looked at the Tennis Courts and bid at \$7,350.00.

Kelly went back to look at the needs for the additional basketball court in Tucker Park, and over the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. She found nothing specifically in regards to the community wanting a basketball court. She also looked at community surveys and looked at the wants that the community desired. She advised that if the board put off resurfacing the courts for another year the cracks may continue to get worse and the price of the repair will increase. Kelly looked in to see if there were any grants available to apply for but had not found one so far. If the surface of the tennis courts continue to get worse people will go elsewhere to play and not use Hiawatha's amenities.

In the 2009 Citizen Survey 16.7% of individuals wanted more tennis courts to the 14.3% wanting basketball courts. Although it is a small percentage difference tennis courts where a higher demand.

Kelly recommended putting off the Tucker Park basketball court and having staff look into what the difference in price will be for resurfacing the tennis courts before they get in poor

condition. Bill Hornett agreed and advised that “we need to take care of what we’ve got first.”

Motion made by Deb Theis, second by Dawn Ewoldt to recommend to council to postpone the new Tucker Park basketball court and use the LOSST CIP funding set aside to resurface the tennis courts at Guthridge Park. Motion carried.

Kona Ice:

Kona Ice is a new mobile vendor vehicle that visits different locations and sells flavored ice. They also help support organizations in a fundraising program. They currently have a vendor license issued by Linn County Department of Public Health, which gives them the ability to service anyone in the state as long as they are asked to attend. They are working on receiving their solicitor’s license with the city to allow them to sell on city streets. Right now they are unable to solicit or sell to anyone else on a regular basis without the City’s approval and a license. Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director, would like to ask the owners if they would attend Adventure Camp every other week to provide participants with a fun and refreshing summer snack.

Motion made by Dawn Ewoldt, second by Deb Theis to recommend to council to allow Kona Ice to come to Hiawatha Adventure Camp every other week and to supplement funding for children who cannot afford it or forget their money.

HiCREW Kiwanis Super Hero Fun Run:

Hiawatha HiCREW Kiwanis would like to do a kids Super Hero 1K on August 22nd during Dogs on Ski’s, the last concert in the park. This would take place around the Guthridge Park trail as a fundraiser for their non profit as well as help support the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department. Kids will be able to dress up as their favorite Super Hero during the intermission of the band playing that night. Rod Jasa, President of HiCREW will be in contact with the band to help support and make announcements. The profits from the run will go towards the Dictionary Project, which drops of dictionaries to the students in the Hiawatha schools.

Motion made by Deb Theis, second by Dawn Ewoldt to recommend to council to allow HiCREW Kiwanis to have their Super Hero 1K fundraiser around Guthridge Park on August 22, 2014.

Bandshell/Pavilion Update:

The Bandshell is under construction. The Building department approved all the plans on Thursday, April 16th. The first phase is grading and completing the concrete base. The completion of the structure will follow. As of right now, the weather will determine if the

first concert will be able to take place in the bandshell. We have the bandwagon reserved one more time.

Seasonal Part-time Employees:

Hiawatha Parks and Recreation hired three part-time seasonal staff, one of which is our own Lynda Hembera along with her husband, Bob Hembera. The Hembera's started on April 24th. Alan Hanson is our third seasonal that worked last year and did exceptional work. We are happy to have all of our staff on board and know they will be a great asset to the department helping Rick and Ted. They are already busy at work.

Adventure Camp Staff:

Hiawatha Adventure Camp has two staff members who will return and four new applicants. Ambyr Young, Recreation Coordinator and Kelly Friedl, Park and Recreation Director have been working on the first session scheduling field trips and guest speakers. The participation rates continue to increase as it gets closer to the deadline, are hopeful to have a full camp for sessions 1 and 2. On Friday, May 5th all of our new and existing staff members worked on a group activity to assign roles and see who the best leaders are. There are three girls and three boy staff members and over half are education majors. This year, there will be one director and one co-director so that there is one person who overlooks the entire group.

Recreation Updates:

Movies on the Square: The first Movies on the Square will take place on Friday, May 30th at 6:30p.m.. Tatyana's and Brickside are on board again by giving the Friends Foundation 25% of their sales. Walmart has also supplied \$100.00 to each of the movies for the purchase of hotdogs and brats. We are excited for our second year and hoping for the same weather as last year. May's movie will be Despicable Me 2 and will take place in the Boyson Square Parking lot with New York Life's Child ID program and other vendors. FRIENDS of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation are running the concessions and volunteers are asked to arrive at 5:30pm. AirFX is potentially a Gold Sponser and Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director will hear back from them soon.

Bike Rodeo and Parade: Friday, May 23th at Guthridge Park is Hiawatha's Bike Rodeo and Parade. This event will take place by the 7th avenue parking lot from 4:30-6:00p.m.. The kids will learn bicycle safety from the Hiawatha and Marion police! Kids will have the opportunity to decorate their bikes for the parade and the first 50 children will receive a FREE bike helmet provided by the Iowa Foundation for Justice! Come join the fun and start Memorial Day weekend off with the family! Bring your lawn chairs for the Large Midgets concert in the park to follow from 6:00-9:00p.m!

NEW-Youth Volleyball Program: Ray Amsler our High School Volleyball and Youth instructor is investigating getting a grant from USAV (USA Volleyball) to cover the cost of another set of Monson Sliders, along with some light volleyballs for the new youth league we are offering this year. The Monson Sliders allow the nets to adjust for certain age groups. Since Ray is part of the USAV he can apply for these grants when we can't. We currently bought one set already but are looking to see how they work. Ray is currently working on the application narrative and getting a letter of support from the IA Region of USAV. He is hoping to have everything together and sent in by May 9th.

Live Healthy Iowa 5K Recap: Live Healthy Iowa was pleased to partner with the City of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation to host 1 of 10 5K races around the state of Iowa on April 12th, 2014 at 8:00am. The location for the race was held at Guthridge Park in the 10th Ave parking lot. This event highlighted National Public Health Week and wrapped up the conclusion of the Live Healthy Iowa (LHI) 10-Week Wellness Challenge. Awards were presented to the top finisher of the 5K Run Male and 5K Run Female. We also offered an award to the male and female who came closest to their guessed time as indicated on their registration form. All children who participated in the 1K following the race received a participation medal. This year we had over 355 participants register and couldn't have asked for a better turnout. Thank you Deb and Dan for coming out and helping at the event. Hiawatha made over \$1,500.

Easter Egg Hunt: We had our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th in Guthridge Park at 9:00a.m. We have over 5,000 eggs to distribute throughout the park. Frank Glaser let us use his PA system again this year which was a great help. Roasters Coffee and the Parks and Recreation Foundation gave \$250.00 to help sponsor the event. Deb Theis added that there were no missing children this year and had eggs on reserve for children crying. Kelly Friedl mentioned making an age limit for the children participating.

Farmers Market: The first farmers market was on April 27th. We had nine vendors show up and directed everyone where to go. Dave Saari has been a big help in plotting the vendors and helping out at the Market every Sunday. Many vendors went through a rough winter with their produce and are waiting for a new round to sell. We have 45 applications total so we are hoping for a better turn out in the next couple weeks.

Parks Update:

REM Iowa Volunteer Day: Employees of REM Iowa, a partner of The MENTOR Network, a national network of local health and human services providers, came together with their families and friends on Saturday, April 12th to participate in The Network's 2nd Annual National Volunteer Day. Nearly 200 employees cleaned up Tucker Park and Guthridge Park in Hiawatha, IA after a hard winter. Volunteers raked leaves, added mulch, cleared the park of sticks and debris, and prepared the park for spring.

“What an amazing and fun-filled experience it was to participate in The MENTOR Network’s 2nd Annual Volunteer Day!” said Lisa Pakkebier, Executive Director of REM Iowa. “To be able to have so many people within REM Iowa, as well as families and friends, participate in volunteering their time to give back to the community, was inspiring and invigorating. As a human service provider we make a difference in the lives of others every day, but it felt remarkable to have so many people associated with our organization be a part of making a difference in cleaning the parks in Hiawatha knowing that children, families, and adults would benefit from these acts of kindness. I can only hope more people have the opportunity to be a part of engaging events of this nature by giving back to their community in some way, shape or form.”

We appreciate all their hard work and effort in cleaning up our parks. Rick Wolfe did a great job leading that event.

Cedar Rapids Toyota Summer Truck: The Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department received a 2010 Toyota Tacoma for the summer use provided by Cedar Rapids Toyota. CR Toyota provided this vehicle for a miniscule 1 dollar leasing cost to the City. The agreement starts in April and will be returned in October with the City being responsible for insurance, fuel and maintenance. This very generous offer from Cedar Rapids Toyota is greatly appreciated and of vital importance to Parks Department’s summer operations.

Tree City USA Award: City of Hiawatha: Tree City USA Recipient- The National Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Bureau are proud to announce that the City of Hiawatha has received the 2013 Tree City USA Growth Award at the 24th Annual Urban Forestry Awards Luncheon, held at the Stoney Creek Inn on April 3, 2014. State Forester Paul Tauke commented, “The Tree City USA Growth award is a symbol for communities who have made a commitment to the management of public trees.” The city of Hiawatha has provided an outstanding example for other Iowa communities, by enhancing our forest resources and demonstrating the great value of trees in providing multiple benefits for future generations. Hiawatha was one of 16 Iowa communities to qualify for Tree City USA Growth status. To receive the award a city must meet four minimum requirements in the following categories: 1) Education and Public Relations, 2) Partnerships, 3) Planning and Management, and 4) Tree Planting and Maintenance.

Hiawatha Kids League: The concession stand has been updated. The Building department inspected the area on April 2nd and approved for Linn County Public Health to make their opening inspection on May 9th. Rick Sizemore, President of the organization worked well with the City and myself keeping us up to date. I will be going to Linn County’s Inspection and will give you an update at Tuesday’s meeting. Our department purchased a mop sink for the project as approved in previous meetings. Kids League paid for the rest of the renovations, and will be having a fundraiser this summer to gain back some of their

funding. Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director added that the concession stand is completely done and approved.

Rick and Ted the Park Maintenance guys have completed aerating and fertilizing. All the restrooms are open and splash pads are ready to go.

We will be planting 38 trees left over from the Operation ReLeaf program that were donated to the city after the Earth Day event. The boy scouts will be helping out as well. We plan to place the trees in areas where we will eventually need to replace Ash Trees.

Motion by Deb Theis, second by Dawn Ewoldt to adjourn at 6:51p.m. Motion carried.

Bill Hornett, Chairperson

ATTEST: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director
