

**Hiawatha Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2021**

Charles Uthe called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Green Pavilion at Guthridge Park. Present: Charles Uthe, Chris Klostermann, Michelle McIllece. Absent: Dan Wilkes and Heather Gibson. Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, Ambyr Severson, Administrative Coordinator and Kim Downs, City Manager.

Motion by Michelle McIllece, second by Chris Klostermann to approve the June 8, 2021 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Charles Uthe, to approve the minutes of May 11, 2021. Motion carried.

Willadsen informed the commission our equipment is on a three-year replacement and that the department keeps it on this rotation so that it is still under warranty. We're looking at purchasing a Turf Tiger Scag from Midway Outdoor Equipment. The department had a scag four to six years ago. Typically, scags come in higher, however, John Deere is very behind and not taking orders for fuel injection equipment – which is easier to work with and maintenance. The department would like to go with Midway for the mower as it is available and comes in at the lowest price.

The other piece we would like to replace is our batwing. A batwing is a big mower that attaches to a tractor and folds up and down. This is up for replacement. P&K Midwest does not have any available. After our trade, the price would be \$10,300.00

The Water Department is looking to purchase our mower and take over mowing their properties. Their staff has been helping us mow and have been great help.

Motion by Michelle McIllece to recommend to council to approve the purchase of the SCAG Turf Tiger (EFI) for \$12,530.50 from Midway Outdoor Equipment and the Landpride 4211 for \$10,300.00 from P&K Midwest, Inc, second by Charles Uthe. Motion carried.

Willadsen advised that the Parks Department has had the same tables and chairs in the Community Center since City Hall was built in 2008. The chairs are grungy and yellow from the lights. The current tables are heavy and bulky. The department is looking at purchasing chair that are a tan/silver in color and lighter and more manageable table. The department is looking to replace all 168 chairs and 21-8ft tables. There is \$30,000 reserved in CIP to replace the fleet. Tall Grass Business did not respond to our request for a quote. Welters came in at \$30,678.00 and for the same equipment, Storey Kenworthy came in at \$22,790.38

McIllece commented that she just bought a couple chairs from Welter and is surprised they couldn't come up with a better price. Maybe they would match it?

Downs replied that Storey Kenworthy is a Hiawatha business.

Willadsen continued, the department received samples from Storey Kenworthy. They look nice and include a 12-year warranty. The ones we have now have held up well. They will be sold on GovDeals.com. We hope to get some return on them.

Motion made by Michelle McIllece to recommend to council the purchase of 168 chairs and 21-8ft tables from Storey Kenworthy for \$22,790.38, seconded by Charles Uthe. Motion carried.

Willadsen advised that Hemophilia of Iowa would like to hold their annual Clot Trot 5K on September 11, 2021 at Clark Park. This is the 7th year of the reoccurring event and the fourth or fifth time it has been held in Clark Park. It's an easy route that includes the trail at Clark and a small portion of Progress Drive. Progress has light traffic therefore they do not need police presence or baracades. Fire and Police are aware of the event and approve of their plan.

Motion by Charles Uthe to recommend the approval of the Clot Trot 5K by Hemophilia of Iowa on September 11, 2021 at Clark Park, second by Michelle McIllece. Motion carried.

Willadsen met with City Engineer, Jon Fitch, and MSA to go over the playground and splashpad at Turtle Creek Park. There is a DNR permit process for wastewater in the event the department has the money to include the splashpad in this phase. The permit has been submitted but it does put the project a month behind on that part. We will continue to move forward with the rest of the project.

Park rentals are going crazy. It is great to see everyone out.

We are short staff. Both the seasonal and the full-time positions are still available and will be interviewing for these positions soon. We are down to one out of the three seasonals we started with. Weekends have been hard. If you know of anyone, please encourage them to apply. The Water and Street Departments have been helping and doing what they can to keep us moving. Ambyr and Kelly have come in on the weekends to clean the Community Center.

McIllece asked what skillset is needed for the position?

Willadsen replied, not a lot. Mowing, checking bathrooms, weed eating, cleaning parks, flowerbeds. Mowing is 80% of it. We are doing what we can. The one seasonal we have is from Kirkwood and she is amazing. Her and Jeff work really well together.

Playgrounds are getting there. We are waiting on a pole at Guthridge.

Splashpads are busy, busy! They are open daily from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Soccer is in full swing with 120 players and coaches.

Adventure Camp climbed to 26 kids for Session One. Session Two still has a lot of openings. The mask mandate has been lifted and the parents meeting went well in regards to the masks. If

participants need to be in close contact, we will still have them wear their masks. Hopefully this continues to go well.

Fun Fest will be scaled back this year with concerts both nights and concessions by Hi-Crew Kiwanis. We will not have the parade on Saturday but will have a performance by Dancers Edge before a concert by Mix Tape and fireworks. There will be a balloon artist Friday night as well.

We want to show off our team spirit! Let Ambyr know your shirt sizes to represent the department.

McIllece asked for a large and encouraged pink shirts.

Uthe asked for an extra-large and Klostermann asked for an extra-large as well.

Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation is ordering a PA system and movie screen. Over the years we could have purchased ten screens. The movie will be July 9th. The title has not been picked yet.

Klostermann advised that he will not be able to attend the July meeting. McIllece said that July 13th works for her.

Uthe asked about water fountains.

Willadsen advised that we would look into Linn County Public Health's guidelines regarding fountains and make a decision.

Uthe advised that he doesn't want to use it but would like to be able to use it for his dog.

McIllece asked why the sidewalk over the bridge has been closed since Luke was in first grade?

Downs advised that when the railroad tracks were redone, they had to put a bumper there, which is not the official name, and that the trail was no longer ADA compliant. The CIP adds a bike lane in FY23 which will allow the work to be done and reopen. You don't notice but the approach is tilted and needs grading work.

Motion by Michelle McIllece, seconded by Chris Klostermann to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Charles Uthe, Chair

ATTEST:

Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation