

## **Hiawatha Parks and Recreation**

### **Regular Meeting**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Vice-President Lynda Hembera called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers. Present: Lynda Hembera, Deb Theis, Dan Wilkes. Absent: Bill Hornett, Dawn Ewoldt Employees: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director, Ambyr Young, Recreation Coordinator, Kim Downs, City Administrator.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Deb Thies to approve the June 9th, 2015 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of past meetings, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, tabled for next meeting.

**City Event 2016:** With RAGBRAI coming near it will soon be time to think about 2016 and what we would like to offer our residents. With Hog Wild Days end, we as a City asked for your assistance to come up with fun ideas that will grab the attention of all of our residents and help us plan. We were looking at doing something on a smaller scale possibly at the end of summer or early September. We would like to make it family oriented and for people of all ages. Lynda Hembera mentioned keeping traditions such as parade, fireworks, vendors and bands. Deb Theis added to keep bingo. Some new events that were suggested was a pickleball tournament, waterball fights, chainsaw artist, police dog showcase, hot air balloon ride, volleyball and softball tournaments and a classic car show. Deb Thies added to start a tradition of when the event takes place, similar to how the garage sales are the first weekend of May every year.

**Update on NW Territory Land:** Kim Downs has been meeting with Sharon Taylor on the NW Territory Land. There are 37.89 acres available and she is asking \$40,000 an acre which comes in at over 1 million dollars, way more than we have available. When Kim had received an appraisal of the land it came in below that at \$625,000.00 which comes out to nearly \$16,500.00 an acre in comparison to the \$40,000 they are asking for. When talking to Skogman just to get a rough estimate back in the fall they quoted \$20,000.00 an acre which was much closer to the appraisal. Kim, Mayor Theis and the City Engineer John Bender have been meeting with Sharon to discuss the possibilities that the land will bring. The biggest reason that she is interested in this project is because Hiawatha Elementary would like to build a new school in this plan. The family is very interested in education and would be happy to see that shared partnership with the land along with the park lodge and outdoor facilities. Deb Thies asked if Hiawatha needed 3 schools? Kim Downs, City Administrator responded that with the new developments in the area more families will be moving

in. The present schools are at or almost at capacity as of right now. A soccer association would like to build on this land and has offered to give one million dollars. The City would own the facility and they would use the space during their soccer season. When it is complete the City would be able to use it at our free will. As far as moving forward we are still in a waiting position with Sharon and her attorney. No negotiating has been done at this time so we will give you an update when the time gets closer. One the process moves forward we will get the Park Commission involved in the planning. As for now in FY17 we have \$250,000 set aside for NW Park Land and in FY18 \$465,000 for park lodge. As you can tell we will need to work on funding for this project.

**Year End Report:** The yearend report described the accomplishments of fiscal year 2014. Some highlights of year was Kelly's lead of RAGBRAI, Ambyr's move to full time, our added programs, program totals, future goals, non-resident fee's and early discounts.

**Foot Washing Station:** A foot washing station has been donated by the Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation for \$810.00. This will help with water efficacy so that when the sand volleyball players or kids rinse their feet off all they will have to do is push a button and it will turn off when they are done. This will help by saving water and leaks from the faucet we now have.

#### **Recreation Updates:**

- **Ambyr moves to full time:** Ambyr was asked to accept a full time position within the City of Hiawatha as the Administration Coordinator beginning in June 2015. She will continue to perform her duties as Recreation Coordinator but will also produce special projects including letters, mailings, spreadsheets, flyers and brochures for the Policy and Administration Department.
- **Bike Rodeo and Concert:** On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we had our annual Bike Rodeo and Parade held in Guthridge Park. We had nearly 50 kids in attendance who all got helmets donated by Linn County Safe Kids Coalition. The Hiawatha Police and Fire Department came out to teach the kids bike safety and helped fit helmets with our Foundation members. The concert following was Full Circle, we had about 200 people in attendance which is fairly good for the first concert of the season. The summer concert series will start Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **RAGBRAI Training Ride June 28<sup>th</sup>:** The Hiawatha to Coralville training ride will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>. HiCREW Kiwanis will be serving a pancake breakfast starting at 6:30am in Guthridge Park with the ride to take off at 8:00am. We expect nearly 1,000 people to participate in this ride. Please let us know if you can volunteer.
- **Hiawatha Adventure Camp:** Hiawatha Adventure Camp starts Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We have a great staff this year will two new staff members and one returning. City Hall will be the storm shelter this year since Hiawatha Elementary is not available due to construction.

- **Smart Start Soccer:** Soccer started June 1<sup>st</sup> with 147 participants this year. We are very happy with the numbers this year and have had great feedback.
- **Blastball:** Blastball will start on July 6<sup>th</sup>. So far we will have over 100 participants with the registration deadline ending June 12<sup>th</sup>. The additional cost for late registration has been very helpful with Blastball and Soccer. It has made registrants more aware of deadlines and when they need their forms in.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Deb Thies, to adjourn at 6:55PM. Motion carried.

Dawn Ewoldt, Chairperson

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ATTEST: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director

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