

Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Regular Meeting

July 8, 2014

President Bill Horner called the Meeting to order at 6:04p.m. at the Red Pavilion in Guthridge Park. Present: Dawn Ewoldt, Deb Thies, Dan Wilkes and Lynda Hembera. Employees: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director, Thomas Thies, Mayor, Kim Downs, City Administrator, Kelly Korneger, City Clerk, Rick Wolfe, Park and Recreation Maintenance, Ted Olson, Park Maintenance and Ambyr Young, Recreation Coordinator. Guests: Hiawatha Council Chambers and CJ Flynn of FRIENDS of Hiawatha Library.

Motion by Dawn Ewoldt, second by Lynda Hembera, to approve the July 8, 2014 agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Motion by Deb Thies, second by Dawn Ewoldt, to approve the minutes of May 13, 2014. Motion carried.

Bandshell/Pavilion Update:

Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director informed the group that the bandshell is almost complete. Hawkeye Electric will be done with the lighting on July 10th. The current fascia will be replaced with a 29 gage steel and will be completed on July 10th as well. Once the sod is laid everything will be complete for the first "Concert in the Park" on August 1st. Although the weather was a huge factor in the building process we are happy to see the project come to a finish.

Year End Report for FY 14:

Kelly Friedl explained the events that took place during the 2014 fiscal year. The Guthridge Park Concession stand was updated in partnership with the Hiawatha Kids League to pass Linn County Public Health inspection code. The bandshell in Guthridge Park was constructed. A swing set was added to Clarke Park with a \$400 donation from HiCrew Kiwanis. The very first Splash a Smile and Touch a Truck event was held and both will be repeated in fiscal year 2015. The Alliant Branching out grant was given to Hiawatha Parks and Recreation to help plant nearly 30 trees in Clarke Park and along Center Pointe Road. Hiawatha's online system, Cogran, was updated and is working fine. Parks and Recreation interviewed for many events with local stations such as Mediacom, KGAN and KCRG TV9 for "Our Town Hiawatha". There was a \$25 non-resident fee added to Community Center

rentals. Adventure Camp fees were also increased by \$25 to help balance the budget and support additional field trips.

Some goals for fiscal year 2015 include putting together a plan for the Emerald Ash Borer with the Metro Area Coordination. Add additional recreation programs such as golf, basketball, cooking, slow pitch, gymnastics, disc golf and bus trips. Resurface the tennis courts and continue to increase rentals for the Community Center and Parks.

Hiawatha's Little Free Libraries:

The Hiawatha Library Friends group would like to install Little Free Libraries in Hiawatha Parks. Kelly Friedl, Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Director recommended not to allow the library to do so as there has been vandalism in recent months. C.J. Flynn, liaison between FRIENDS of Hiawatha Library and Hiawatha Board of Trustees advised the group that the Little Free Libraries would be checked weekly by a group member and that .001% of the Little Free Libraries had ever been vandalized. He went on to add that the Little Free Library in Marion, Iowa was stolen and then found shortly after it was put up and there would be no maintaining or financial cost to the City of Hiawatha. Flynn added that constructing the Free Little Libraries would put Hiawatha on the map at www.littlefreelibrary.org. Dan Wilkes said that he "doesn't see a downside".

Motion made by Dan Wilkes, second by Dawn Ewoldt to allow the FRIENDS of Hiawatha Library to construct four Free Little Libraries in a neutrally agreed upon area decided by Parks staff.

Recreation Updates:

Adventure Camp: Session one of Adventure Camp began on June 16th. 56 children are enrolled from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children have hiked through Palisades-Kepler State Park in Mount Vernon, washed a fire truck at the Hiawatha Fire Station, attended a play at the Old Creamery Theatre in Amana, gone to Wickiup Hill Learning Center in Toddville and have exciting water days planned to end session one. Session two begins July 14th includes speakers from Hy-Vee and The Blank Park Zoo, trips to Collins Road Theatres, The Science Center, Ushers Ferry and Westdale Bowling Center. The budget is looking considerably better this year compared to years past due to Cedar Rapids School District offering transportation services at a lower rate.

Kona Ice: Kona Ice visited Adventure Camp on June 23rd and July 3rd. Kelly and Ambyr went out to test the products at the last visit and enjoyed themselves. It seems to be a big hit and the kids look forward to upcoming dates on July 18th and August 1st.

Movies on the Square: Despicable Me 2 was our first Movies on the Square of 2014. About 300 people showed up to enjoy the movie; bounce house, chalk contests and vendors. Our second Movies on the Square 2014 production of "Toy Story" was cancelled due to weather. A rain date has been scheduled for August 29th. Next Movies on the Square is July 25th and the production will be "Enchanted".

NEW-Youth Volleyball Program: We are excited to have our first year of the Youth Volleyball Clinic under our belt. Ray Amsler partnered with Hiawatha Parks and Recreation to create this new league. He applied for and received the 2014 Beach GRO Grant from USA Volleyball for \$500. This allowed Hiawatha to purchase a second set of Monsoon Sliders for our volleyball net system.

Farmers Market: 2014 Farmers Market is running smoothly. Ambyr and Kelly have been discussing possibilities of upcoming events to encourage patrons to shop local and produce more participation for vendors.

Concerts in the Park: Our first Concert in the Park took place on May 23rd. Large Midgets headlined the concert after the Bike Rodeo and Parade. Several volunteers from FRIENDS of Hiawatha helped fit helmets and then enjoyed the concert after. Both events were a success!

HiBRAI Update: HiBRAI is coming together well. Bruce Johnson of FRIENDS of Hiawatha has secured 5-10 cases of Miller Light and Coors Light from Dudley Fleck of Fleck Sales. He's also secured 10 cases of Pepsi from Pepsi Company to be distributed to both HiBRAI and Playing for Keeps. As far as HiBRAI giveaways we have looked into bike caps but they are very expensive. We are also looking into prices of towels, cooler neck wraps, sunglasses and water bottles. We have 34 registrants so far.

KCRG Our Town Hiawatha: KCRG TV9 aired "Our Town Hiawatha" June 16th through the 20th. It featured Hiawatha events such as "Movies on the Square", "Playing for Keeps" and discussed how each year individuals, families, organizations and businesses in Hiawatha can adopt a park, a flower-bed, or a street median to care for.

Parks Update:

- **Clark Park Vandalism:** On the weekend of June 14th, 2014 Fay M Clark Memorial Park was a victim of vandalism. The Clark Park entrance sign and disc golf hole #1 sign were demolished. The Police Department made a report and we have turned it into the insurance company. Wood Graphics of Marion is where we have gotten all of the park signs made. It will cost around \$2,240.00 to replace both signs. For the mean time the park maintenance staff has pieced it back together until we receive the new signs.
- **Guthridge Park Dugout Damage:** During the set up of Hog Wild Days we had one vendor nick the side of field #4's dug out. Some shingles were pulled off the corner. We are in the process of getting that fixed.
- **Land Acquisition:** Kim has been into contact with Sharon Taylor and Varlyn and Jane Fink for the discussion with the City's interest in purchasing a portion of their land located in the North West

territory. Kim included how we would incorporate their land with a new lodge and education center. We hope to meet with them in the next month to see if there is any interest in allowing us to purchase land and construct a new park in the future. Both families are interested in discussion.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Lynda Hembera to adjourn at 6:36p.m. Motion carried.

Bill Hornett, Chairperson

ATTEST: Kelly Friedl, Parks and Recreation Director
