

**AGENDA**

**HIAWATHA PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**December 8, 2020**

There will be no commission meeting for the month of December.

**To:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**CC:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation  
**Date:** December 4, 2020  
**Re:** Park and Recreation Report

**Jeff, Ted, Ambyr and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We sure hope 2021 looks a lot different! We look forward to the year ahead and all the great things we can offer to the Hiawatha Community! Thank you for your service and support to our department.**

## **Reports**

### **Parks:**

**Turtle Creek Park Concept:** The first concept meeting for Turtle Creek Park will take place on Friday, December 4th. City Staff will be meeting with MSA to discuss the remaining phases of the park to put together a marketing visual for our community. This will help you visualize what the park has potential to look like.

**Linn County Conservation Witwer Grant:** The Witwer Grant is due December 15th. This grant is smaller but allows communities to apply for funds that benefit Linn County residents. Kelly will submit an application for continued trail development at Turtle Creek Park. The ½ mile trail will be expanded in Phase 2 planning. This grant will be reviewed and awarded by the Linn County Board February of 2021.

**Ice Rink:** Council approved the purchase of the portable ice rink at the November 18th Council meeting with your recommendation. The ice rink has been ordered and we anticipate its arrival over the next two weeks. We are excited to add this feature to our list of activities and can't wait to share it with our community!

**Clark Park Trail Lighting:** Trey Electric is working on the installation of the pedestrian and bollard lighting at Clark Park. They should be done by the end of December. The lighting will be on standard park hours from 6:30am-10:00pm. This will be an exciting feature to add to our community. Tucker Park will be completed in the spring once weather allows.

**Guthridge Ball Diamond Dug Outs:** We are currently getting bids for the rebuild of 4 dug outs that were blown over due to the derecho. We hope to have them rebuilt by May of 2021 in preparation for Kids League games. We will be looking at replacing the shingles with metal roofing which would consist of less maintenance in years to come! Stay tuned!

**Winter Park Projects:** Ted and Jeff have been busy closing up the 2020 year in the parks before the snow falls. Picnic tables are being stacked, new picnic tables have been ordered to replace the broken ones, park equipment has been cleaned up, flower beds are being trimmed up and cleaned out, Christmas lights have been hung, dumpsters have been picked up, nets have been taken down, restrooms are winterized and port a potties have been delivered. The guys will be preparing their vehicles for Iowa snowfall soon. This wasn't the year we all anticipated, but Ted and Jeff have run with the changes. Much of their time these last few months has been continuing to help with derecho clean up.

**Trees Please Mid American Grant:** Kelly submitted an application for the Mid American Tree's Please grant in effort to replant trees in Guthridge and Tucker Park spring of 2021. This grant is typically worth \$1,000.00 but they have allowed communities to ask for more due to the derecho storm damage. Kelly was able to ask for \$10,000.00, which has the potential to plant nearly 40 new trees! We should hear back from the grant in February with hopes to start replanting first thing next spring.

### **Recreation:**

**Letters from Santa:** Add a little magic to the season and receive a letter from Santa, mailed directly to your child. Santa would love to write to your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews no matter where they live! So, let the elves know if you would like to receive a letter this year! \$3 Sign up [here](#).

**Holiday Home Decorating Contest:** Tis' the season for Christmas lights! Hiawatha is in search of holiday light displays and needs your help. Simply submit your own home or a property you feel deserves recognition to Ambyr or I and we will compile a comprehensive list for everyone to drive around and enjoy! This is a great family friendly activity that is COVID safe! The best decorated house has the chance to win a flat screen TV!

**Snowman Building Contest:** Iowa weather, it's bound to snow at some point! Build a snowman between the months of December and February and send it to Ambyr or I to be entered into the snowman building contest. Photos will be posted on the Park and Recreation Facebook Page. Winners will receive free frozen custard from Culvers!

**Thanksgiving Craft Kits:** Thanksgiving Craft Kits were a hit! 22 kits were delivered to Hiawatha Residents and we've heard nothing but positive feedback!

**Christmas Craft Kits:** Make memories and festive crafts with your loved ones this holiday season. Kits include a snowman snowflake Christmas ornament, gingerbread house sticker placemat, snow globe picture frame magnet and surprise fun and games! Delivered directly to your Hiawatha doorstep on December 11th! \$8 per kit. Registration opens December 5th. Sign up [here](#).

**New Years Eve Family Party Pack:** Celebrate moving into the new year with Hiawatha Parks and Recreation NYE Family Party Pack! Packs will be delivered directly to your Hiawatha doorstep and will include sparkling juice, champagne flutes, new years hats, foil horns or blowouts, beads or leis PLUS color your own party hats, create your own picture frame and magic wand! Enough fun for the whole family! \$20 Registration opens December 5th. Sign up [here](#).

**Holiday Lights Parade:** The City of Hiawatha Departments will be putting together a small City Parade with special guest Santa on Thursday, December 17th! This small parade will go throughout the Hiawatha Community starting at 5:30pm. The route will be posted soon for residents to see! For any residents that don't have the parade go directly by their home, they will be able to park in the 10th Avenue of Guthridge Park. Stay tuned for all the details on the City Facebook Page and Website.

## **FY20**

**2020 Accomplishments:** This year will be one to remember! Steering through the COVID-19 pandemic and experiencing the Iowa Derecho. I can tell you these world events did not slow us down! We were able to complete the following projects between the months of March and December all while learning the new ways of social distancing and cleaning up after a natural disaster we never saw coming! Thank you for bearing with us this year and all your support! We are proud of all the accomplishments that took place and are ready for a new year!

**NW Park Design Phase #1:** The Turtle Creek Park bid opening for Phase 1 took place on June 23rd awarding Peterson Contractors, Inc. for a total of \$466,778.00 coming in below budget by \$146,969.00. This phase consisted of finishing Fitzroy Rd, a half mile limestone trail from Edgewood Road, and site grading. PCI started construction in August, with

completion the second week of November. A park concept is currently in the works with Phase 2 discussion.

**Sidewalk Path from 10<sup>th</sup> Ave to Concessions:** This project was brought up by many individuals during the Comprehensive Park Plan. Since our ball diamonds did not have a direct path from the 10<sup>th</sup> Ave parking lot, accessibility was a barrier for many visitors that may have a hard time walking on an uneven surface. This project included adding a sidewalk from the north end of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ave parking lot directly to the concession stand. The project was started in September and completed in October by Eastern Iowa Construction.

**Trail Lighting in Tucker and Clark Park:** Trail lighting was another project based off our updated 2019 Comprehensive Park Plan. Bids were tabulated on September 8th awarding Trey Electric Corp, for a total of \$202,653.00 coming in below budget by \$107,347.00. Clark park was started on November 9th and will be completed by the end of December. Tucker Park will begin spring of 2020 due to the derecho clean up efforts.

**Cedar Valley Trail Connection/Clark Park Trail Connection:** Improving accessibility to our parks and trails was a huge necessity within our updated plan and that we continue to work on each year. The two projects included a crossing from Grey Wolf and Miller to Clark Park, and adding trail access from Thire Drive to the Cedar Valley Trail because of the safety and accessibility from Robins/Boyson Rd to the trail head. The added trail off of Thire Drive behind the City shop included working with Linn County to grant access and adding nearly 250ft of concrete trail. These two projects were completed throughout the 2020 year.

**Tennis Court and Basketball Court Replacement:** Our Basketball Court was replaced in October by Pate Asphalt for a total of \$40,631.52 below budget by \$13,000.00. Dan Triber of Tennis Services will resurface the tennis courts and paint the basketball court line spring of 2021 when temperatures allow.

**Shade Panel Replacement at Guthridge Park Splash Pad:** Our shade panels at Guthridge Park were nearing 10 years. With the constant sun and weather conditions their seams are breaking and the panels were deteriorating. We replaced the three panels, for a cost of \$6,100.00 from Waterloo Tent and Tarp with our splashpad reserve fund. With the lower cost of resurfacing both splash pads we were able to use funds out of this reserve and still have \$23,500 set aside in case of any issues during the future seasons. We will continue putting dollars in this account annually for any updates.

**Parks Dump Trailer Purchase:** Our parks department replaced their 10ft dump trailer that they had for nearly 16 years with the purchase of a new 12ft dump trailer from Wright Way Trailers in Hiawatha for the cost of \$8,500.00. The old trailer sold on GovDeals for \$3,200.00 in June.

Once Council approves the CIP projects for FY21, I will share with you our upcoming projects! Stay tuned!