

**Hiawatha Parks and Recreation  
Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2021**

Charles Uthe called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.  
Present: Charles Uthe, Chris Klostermann, Dan Wilkes and Michelle McIllece, Heather Gibson  
Employees: Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation and Kim Downs, City Manager.  
Guest: Dan Hoffman.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Michelle McIllece, to approve the April 13, 2021 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Klostermann, second by Michelle McIllece, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. Motion carried.

**Approval of Hiawatha Kids League Covid-19 Operational Guidelines:**

Willadsen informed the commission that Hiawatha Kids League (HKL) is planning on starting practices May 3, and has put in place COVID-19 operational guidelines set by the HKL board. These guidelines were brought to the Park Commission for approval and support of the organization. They are requiring masks by players and coaches while in the dugout. Once out on the field in their positions they can remove them. All spectators will be asked to wear a face covering unless they can maintain 6ft social distancing.

Michelle recommended changing the statement: "Games during that time will have to be forfeited" to something not as harsh. Instead using the word suspended or rescheduled.

Chris asked if there would be opportunities to reschedule games?

Willadsen commented that HKL is shortening their season so rescheduling may not be an option but she would make the suggestion to the HKL board.

Motion by Chris Klostermann to recommend to HKL Board to change "forfeited" to something less harsh, such as suspended or rescheduled, seconded by Heather Gibson. Motion carried.

**Approval of Hi-Yoga Event with Panda Marie June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

Willadsen shared the information presented in the reports about a new event coming to Hiawatha on June 26<sup>th</sup> with a Hiawatha business called Panda Marie. The event is a one-day Yoga event to take place in Guthridge Park. The event will begin with a 5k walk/run put on the Parks and Recreation Foundation followed by a group yoga session and breakout sessions to follow. An evening concert will be open to the public featuring Alisabeth Von Presley.

Willadsen emphasized that registration would be limited to 200 people with masks required per the COVID-19 guidance through Linn County Public Health and the area size. Both Willadsen

and Downs will continue working with Dusty Swehla on COVID plans and actions. They will monitor the Linn County Public Health phases as we progress through the pandemic. Panda Marie is aware that if cases spike there is always the possibility that the event will need to be cancelled.

Wilkes recalled an event that took place at New Bo a few years ago. Utilizing the resources and bringing it to Hiawatha is a great idea.

McIllece asked how we would control concert attendees since it will be open to the public? Willadsen mentioned there are still some details that need to be figured out, but they are currently looking at painting social distancing markers. The positive about this event is that it will set us up for success for our Friday night concerts in the Park during August allowing us to see what works and what needs adjusted.

Gibson commented that Alisabeth Von Presley is a big name in the metro community so it could bring in large numbers.

Willadsen reminded the commission that the community has always done a fairly decent job by spacing out and not sitting directly by one another at concerts. With everyone experiencing the COVID Pandemic we hope everyone will stay within their social groups.

Downs and Willadsen will continue to work out the details as the event approaches.

Motion by Michelle McIllece in support of Hi-Yoga taking place in Guthridge Park on June 26th, seconded by Chris Klostermann. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of HiCREW Kiwanis Father's Day Pancake Breakfast in Guthridge Park June 20, 2021:**

Willadsen shared the information provided by the HiCREW Kiwanis Club on their idea to offer their annual Pancake Breakfast at Guthridge Park on June 20, Father's Day weekend, in swaps of their Valentines Day Breakfast in the Community Center that was cancelled due to COVID. Kelly emphasized that this group has done numerous outdoor breakfasts for Hiawatha Fun Fest over the past 4 years. They have this event down to a science and will have all volunteers wear a mask during the event from 9am-12pm. Extra cleaning practices will be put in place along with tables spaced accordingly for proper social distancing.

Wilkes commented that he is a current member of the Kiwanis Club and has volunteered at these events over the past years. They have always been a success. Wilkes abstained from voting.

Willadsen informed the commission that because of all the cancelled events over the past year, this allows the Kiwanis Club to start their fundraising efforts again.

Motion made by Michelle McIllece to approve the HiCREW Kiwanis Father's Day Pancake Breakfast on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, seconded by Heather Gibson. Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Amateur Radio Field Day:**

Willadsen reminded the commission that this would be the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the Amateur Radio Club to host this event at Clark Park. Commission allowed the Director the capability to approve this event internally, but since we are bringing back events after COVID, Willadsen wanted to update the commission and make sure they supported the event with the following guidance that the Club put in place.

The club will be offering at home and in person event capabilities. The event overall is very spaced out and manageable. They will practice social distancing guidance along with extra cleaning efforts.

Motion made by Charles Uthe to approve the Amateur Radio Field Day June 25-27, at Clark Park, seconded by Dan Wilkes. Motion Carried.

### **Parks:**

Willadsen informed the commission that we are still working on phase 2 of Turtle Creek Park. The City asked for a new leader through MSA, so we are updating Jake on where we are at and how we can move forward. Kelly will update the board as we progress.

The Guthridge Park dug outs that were damaged by the Derecho will be reconstructed starting mid-April, with completion by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trey Electric is finishing up on the trail lighting projects at Tucker and Clark Park within the next couple weeks. They are waiting on a few parts to finish the connections. We have heard lots of positive feedback.

Willadsen updated the Commission on seasonal positions. All three spots are filled, two students and one gentleman. We are excited to get them started and utilize them throughout the season.

Ted Olson has submitted his retirement; his last official day will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. He will be greatly missed and we appreciate all that he has done for our department. We will post a Park/Facility Maintenance Position on the City Website to bring a new person on board.

The Foundation held their first Egg My Yard program and they had great success. They gained a lot of positivity from the program and plan to do it again next year even if they bring back the annual City Easter Egg Hunt. The group profited around \$500.

Program numbers are flying in for Soccer and Blastball. We will be following a lot of the same guidelines that have been put in place by Hiawatha Kids League. We will bring those to you for discussion at next month's commission meeting.

Motion by Dan Wilkes, second by Charles Uthe, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Motion carried.

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Charles Uthe, Chair

ATTEST:

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Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation