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**DATE: June 19, 2018**

**TO: Marion Mayor & Council**



Park Board Activity

- **Soccer Goal Purchases:** The purchase of 3 replacement soccer goal sets from Spartan Athletic Co. (on-line) in the amount of \$4,512.41 was approved.
- **Trail Easement Vacation:** The Board was informed the City Council will act on a request from the Residences at the Park, Home Owners Association (HOA) to vacate the trail easement on their property. The easement was requested during the development stage, but with the installation of a detention basin and sewer lines, the grade will not allow for a trail to be installed.

Department Report

- **Skate Park:** The open house on May 8 to gather input from the community was held. Staff are awaiting skate park designs from Spohn Ranch. The project is still on track to be completed this fall.
- **Low Park Development:** The pre-construction meeting with the general contractor, sub-contractors, and other interested parties was well attended and went very well.
- **Marion Arts Festival:** Operations staff prepped City Square for the annual Arts Festival. The weather was great and the event was well attended.
- **All-Star Community Recognition Bench:** The Hills Bank “All-Star Community” recognition bench and plaque have installed by the Amphitheater Trail from the new parking lot.
- **Rotary Clock:** The Rotary Clock was installed in the flower bed on the southside of the Depot along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Rotary selected a very fitting design to fit in nicely with the Depot theme.
- **BBQ Rendezvous:** The Kiwanis’ annual BBQ Rendezvous is being held at Lowe Park for the first time this year. Staff have been working with their committee to ensure the event goes smoothly and doesn’t have a negative impact on the grounds.
- **Oak Shade Cemetery:** There were four burials and seven spaces sold last month.

- **Swimming Pool:** Pool leak detection update, American Leak Detection was at the pool on May 29. They located a good-sized leak in the floor inlet closest to the deep-end. A plug was put in the small line to help stop the loss until repairs can be made in the fall. They will come back during the season to detect if other areas are losing water.



Filling the pool and staff training were delayed a week due to the leak detection process. The pool officially opened on Friday, June 1, which meant we missed being open for one day, Memorial Day.

- **Citizen Requests Tree Issues:** There were nine citizen requests in May regarding right-of-way trees, and one case regarding a private tree. The private tree and three of the right-of-way tree issues were resolved.
- **Citizen Requests Tall Grass and Weeds:** There were 48 citizen contacts received about properties with tall grass and weeds in May. After the initial inspection, 7 did not require any follow-up, 41 were sent certified letters, and the department mowed 4 of these properties.

- **Tree Grants:** The Alliant Branching Out Grant was submitted for the Fall 2018 cycle to plant trees along an additional phase of 35<sup>th</sup> Street.

- **Tree Planting Projects:** Students from Marion High School helped to plant 57 trees along 35<sup>th</sup> Street north of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the One Day in May service project on May 14.

Forestry staff assisted Marion Independent Schools in a “Trees for Kids” planting project at Longfellow Elementary School.

Linn Mar seniors volunteered to mulch over 120 trees along Tower Terrace for the Senior Service Day on May 23.

Forestry staff planted 20 trees in the right-of-way as part of the spring Street Tree Replacement Project.



- **Forestry Operations:** A new seed drill was purchased with support from Monarch Research Project to help with new prairie restoration plantings as part of the 1000 Acre Initiative.



Preparation began to ready the areas which will be seeded for pollinator zone prairies this spring at Waldo’s Rock and the 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue basin.

Staff continue to respond to tree concerns as they are reported. Regular summer maintenance has begun including removal of poor condition trees and ash trees to lower the susceptible population to EAB.

- **Garlic Mustard Pull:** Over 40 volunteers helped pull garlic mustard in Thomas and Legion parks as part of the United Way Day of Caring. Efforts are paying off as the appearance of garlic mustard seems to be thinning.
- **Youth Recreation Programs:** Tiny Goal Kickers Soccer and Kick Star Soccer programs were extended due to the April winter weather and wrapped up the last week of May.

PeeWee Baseball and Softball teams were created, and practices began May 21.

Boys age 5: 10 teams, and 107 players

Boys ages 6 to 8: 18 teams, and 192 players

Girls Kindergarten: 6 teams, and 66 players

Girls Grades 1 & 2: 8 teams, and 88 players

Little Sports Camp wrapped up on May 30 with 72 children ages 3 to 5 participating in this sports sampler class featuring soccer, baseball, football, and basketball units.

Live Healthy Iowa Track Championships were held May 19 at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids. Marion Parks and Recreation teamed up with Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Departments to hold the event. Over 80 kids came out to participate in this free track meet.

- **Moonlit Movie:** The first Moonlit Movie of the season was postponed due to stormy weather. The rescheduled event was held on Thursday, May 31. Kids enjoyed free face-painting, balloon art, live music, crafts, and a photo booth before taking in the feature presentation, Disney's "Coco". An estimated crowd of 400 came out to enjoy the Disney movie *Coco* on a steamy night.
- **Summer Art Camp:** Mr. Brandt's popular Summer Art Camp returns in June. The six sessions are currently at 93 percent capacity.
- **Ride to Wrigley:** The chartered bus trip is all booked and ready to depart on June 20 to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the Los Angeles Dodgers at Wrigley Field. Tickets sold out quickly for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year for this trip. This program is done as a cooperative partnership with Hiawatha Parks and Recreation.
- **Dogs of Society, The Ultimate Elton Rock Tribute:** The first summer concert provided by hotel/motel funding is set to hit the stage at Lowe Park on June 23 at 7 p.m. The Elton tribute group originates from the St. Louis area.
- **UPCOMING Programs:** Sunrise Yoga kicks off June 2 at the Amphitheater. This program is free and open to the public every Saturday morning in June, July, and August from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Youth/Adult Tennis lessons begin the week of June 4. There are 41 participants in the first session this summer at the Marion High School Tennis Courts. Participants range from age 5 to 50+.

Lil' Kickers Kickball begins June 5 at Lowe Park. Morning and evening sessions are being held for the 32 kids, ages 3 and 4, who are participating in this four-week camp.

Lil' Chippers Golf begins on June 5 at Lowe Park. There are 43 kids from 6 to 10 years of age participating in this intro to golf camp. One morning and two evening classes are being held.

Youth Flag Rugby kicked off on June 6 at Lowe Park with 35 kids are participating in this non-contact flag rugby camp. This program is made possible thanks to a partnership with the Cedar Rapids Rugby Club.

Learn To Play Pickleball Clinics will be held on June 6 for youth, and June 9 for adults. There are 11 kids participating in the morning youth clinic and 7 adults participating in the morning adult clinic.

ISU Extension Robot Boot Camp will be held on June 7 at the Thomas Park Safe Room. There are 18 kids are currently registered to participate in this day camp offered as a partnership with Iowa State Extension and Outreach.

Blastball for 3 and 4-year olds will begin play on June 7. For the first time, a morning session was offered. There are 18 teams playing in the evening and 4 teams in the morning.

Story Time at Lowe returns on June 7. The Marion Library brings their popular story time on the road to Lowe Park to take in some children's literature under the amphitheater canopy.

- **Arts Council:** A new display case to showcase some permanent art work was purchased and is already in use.

Member Dennis Frevert resigned from the Council after almost 10 years of service.

Plans for the Picnic on the Prairie on June 16 with Pieta Brown performing are coming together. The fall Picnic on the Prairie will be August 18 and feature local performers Bernemann Brothers.

The art exhibit at The Gallery features works by the Vinton Artist Guild in the lobby and Gordon Kellenberger in the hallway. These can be viewed through June.

- **Master Gardeners Report from Phil Pfister:** The Linn County Master Gardeners held their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 19. This year the sale was held at the Marion American Legion Post 298.

The blooming side of the greenhouse totaled 717 individual plants and 81 hanging baskets, succulent gardens, patio pots and basket gardens, each containing multiple plants. The veggie side totaled 796 individual tomato and pepper plants, and 75 four-cell packs. There were 42 varieties of tomatoes and 18 varieties of peppers, and a few eggplants. One of each tomato has been planted in the raised beds at the greenhouse. The produce will be donated to HACAP for distribution to the food pantries, and, conditions permitting, used in the tomato tasting during the Swamp Fox Festival activities at Lowe Park on the 28th of September.

At the same time plants are being grown for the plant sale, there are also plants being grown for the demonstration gardens. Work started the week of 28 May to cleanup and plant all the demonstration gardens.

**SAFE ROOM & ARTS CENTER USAGE – MAY**

Events with alcohol permits: 2

AV Equipment Rentals: 2

Some reservations use more than one room.

<b>Room</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Free</b>
Safe Room	10	3
Amphitheater	0	2
Lobby/Gallery	0	2
Art Room	0	1
Sunburst	11	12
Hickory	24	11
White Oak	0	0
Red Oak	1	1
Red & White Oak	21	16
Entire Facility	0	1
Outdoor (Pond) / Greenhouse	0	0
<b>2018 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>2017 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Activity Type</b>	<b>Monthly Usage</b>	<b>Number of Attendees*</b>
Gallery Open / Arts Council Activities	3	133
Seniors Bingo /Dance / Cards	22	476
Parks / Recreation	12	1,299*
Meetings / Work / School / Church	5	105
Blood Drive	1	25
Family Gatherings / Showers	11	810
Rehearsal/Wedding/Reception	1	60
Graduation	46	7,095
Encore Café	10	357
Employee Appreciation Breakfast	1	130
<b>2018 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>10,490</b>
<b>2017 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9,114</b>

\*Art Gallery visitors not reflected.

\*\*Includes Movie Night (400), Marion Boys Baseball/Girls Softball Photos (805), and Yoga (15).

## PAVILION RESERVATIONS – MAY 2018

Pavilion	Free	Paid	TOTAL	Attendance*
English – Thomas Park	3	12	15	930
Begley #1 – Thomas Park	1	13	14	510
Begley #2 – Thomas Park	1	10	11	290
Hanna Park	0	14	14	1,020
Depot - City Park	1	10	11	1,090
Taube Park	4	9	13	370
<b>2018 TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>4,210</b>
<b>2017 Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3,175</b>

Does not include attendees to: Farmers Market (Taube Park), City Show Case (Depot), and the Marion Arts Festival (Depot).

The Marion Arts Council presents  
**PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE**  
 A summer music concert at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater for the Performing Arts  
*Native Iowa musician, singer & songwriter*  
**Pieta Brown**  
 Her artistry combines folk, country, and dusky swamp in a graceful, supple and elegant genre of traditional...  
 ~ American Songwriter  
 Saturday  
 June 16, 2018  
 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
 Come be inspired by music, art and the beautiful outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, blanket and lawn chair. Take a walk on the trail and visit the art gallery as well. The event is FREE and open to the public.  
 Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center  
 4500 10th Street Marion, IA 52302 319-447-3590  
 www.cityofmarion.org/artsCouncil  
 City of Marion

**ENCORE CAFE** *Opening May 9*  
**Tuesdays & Wednesdays at Noon at Lowe Park**  
 For Seniors 60+, catered by Marion Hy-Vee, with salad bar - \$5  
 RSVP by 1 p.m. the day prior by calling 377-3412  
 FOOD FRIENDS FUN

**Marion Farmers' Market**  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
 May 5-Sept. 29 | 8 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Taube Park**  
 2200 31st Street | Marion  
 Stop by for fresh produce, meats, baked goods, flowers, handmade crafts and more.  
 Call Marion Parks & Rec: 319-447-3590  
 City of Marion



## MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES

May 9, 2018, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Amy Hussel, Patty Wise, Kyle Martin,  
ABSENT: John McIntosh, Terry Sperial  
STAFF: Karlene Hummel, Darcie Coberly  
GUESTS: None

### Minutes

Moved by Wise and seconded by Martin to approve the April 11, 2018, regular Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Reports

The April Financial Report was reviewed. Moved by Wise and seconded by Hussel to approve the April Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

The April Invoice Report was received and filed. Staff reviewed the payment made to MSA Professional Services in the amount of \$19,950 for professional services related to the Lowe Park South End Development.

### Public Input

None.

### Flower Bed – Landscape Maintenance Service Agreement Renewal

The service agreement with Creekside Gardens for flower bed and landscape maintenance is being renewed for the 2018 season. The hourly rate increased by \$1, from \$50 to \$51, and will be in effect until June 30, 2018. Mike Carolan will be working with Creekside Gardens to change the fee schedule to a lump sum payment per location, rather than an hourly fee for services performed. The revised agreement will be brought to the board for approval when the changes are agreed upon. Moved by Hussel and seconded by Wise to approve the renewal of the Flower Bed – Landscape Maintenance Service Agreement with Creekside Gardens as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

### Capital Project Funding Reallocation

Earlier this year the board discussed the possibility of reallocating capital project funding from the Hanna Park basketball court upgrades (\$60,000) and the City Square Depot restroom improvements (\$65,000) to the Lowe Park South End Development project. As the Lowe Park project is getting underway, it is clear the funding is needed. Moved by Wise and seconded by Martin to reallocate project funding for the Hanna Park basketball court upgrades (\$60,000) and City Square Depot restroom improvement (\$65,000) to the Lowe Park South End Development. All in favor, motion carried.

### Receive and File

None.

Other Items

Property owner Steve Wells contacted staff about purchasing 80 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjacent to Donnelly Park for \$550,000. The board discussed the property and price and is not interested in pursuing the acquisition.

Staff Report

The staff report was presented.

Hummel reported the MSA representative for the Lowe Park South End Development project has left the company and a new project lead is on board and being brought up to speed.

The pool leak is still under investigation. Staff are narrowing down the possibilities of the leak location. At this time, the pool is scheduled to open Friday, June 1.

Board Discussion Time

Wise attended the Butterfield Park Skate Park public input meeting and was disappointed in the attendance. She asked if the meeting information was given to the school.

Wise shared her grandson is excited about the splash pads being turned on.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

Kyle Martin, Secretary

**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

May 9, 2018

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Marilyn Tormey, Scott Hansen, Rodney Bluml, Mollie Lorenz, Mark Sanderson

ABSENT: Tom Ryan, Sunshine McDonald

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Kesha Billings, Marion Planning Department

Minutes

Motion by Lorenz and seconded by Tormey to approve the April 11, 2018 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Cimprich advised the monies from the *Trees Please* grant award from MidAmerican Energy had been received.

Public Input

None



### South 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Suggested Trail Tree Plantings

Associate Planner Kesha Billings had contacted Cimprich about planting trees along South 15<sup>th</sup> Street as part of a new Safe Routes to School Trail project currently under development. A Wellmark MATCH grant was awarded in the amount of \$100,000 to the City of Marion for a trail in the Marion Independent School District, which covers the smallest school geographic area in the state. The City will receive the funding and is required to match the same amount, which can be in-kind or professional services. The purpose of the grant award is to create a campus feel for students and create a Safe Routes to School Trail between the schools. As identified in the adopted Safe Routes to Schools Plan, trees are encouraged in the right-of-way to create a tree canopy to calm traffic along the streets. The trees would be planted on the west side of South 15<sup>th</sup> Street to First Avenue. Billings briefly reviewed the City's Master Trails Plan and upcoming projects which will include trail construction from 31<sup>st</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 13 and completion of the CeMar Trail south of Highway 100 up to the Sixth Avenue right-of-way south of Country Kitchen. Cimprich indicated there is potential to plant 20 to 22 trees on the west side of South 15<sup>th</sup> Street. It was motioned by Lorenz and seconded by Sanderson to add 20 to 22 trees on South 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the Street Tree Replacement Program for the Safe Routes to School Trail project. Motion carried with one opposition by Hansen. Cimprich will check into utility easements on the right-of-way for the plantings.

### Alliant Energy's Fall Branching Out Grant Project

Cimprich stated there is a June 1 deadline for submission of the Alliant Energy Fall *Branching Out* grant request and is asking the board to recommend planting locations. Suggested locations included 35<sup>th</sup> Street north to 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and would be ideal to continue working to Lucore Road. Motioned by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to continue the plantings on 35<sup>th</sup> Street south to 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the trees to remain consistent in size with trees recently planted in the area. All in favor, motion carried.

### Winslow Road Tree Request

A citizen contacted staff about the possibility of planting trees along Winslow Road. The back yard of the property is along Flagstaff. Cimprich advised plantings would only be recommended on one side of Winslow Road as it is a rural ditch area. The citizen could apply and plant the trees as a private planting in the right of way. Once Tower Terrace Road is completed (approximately five years), Winslow Road could be added to the tree planting list. It was motioned by Tormey and seconded by Bluml to add Winslow Road plantings to the tree planting list with a low priority for those plantings. All in favor, motion carried.

### Marion High School's One Day in May Project

The One Day in May project is scheduled for Monday, May 14 at 9:00 a.m. for the planting of trees from 35<sup>th</sup> Street to the roundabout as part of the Alliant Energy Spring *Branching Out* grant funding. Plans are to plant 57 trees with the assistance of 20 to 30 Marion High School students. The rain date is Tuesday, May 15. Cimprich encouraged any interested board member who would like to participate to meet at the intersection of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 35<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Receive and File

None

### Staff Report

A concerned citizen had contacted city hall regarding a tree on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Seventh Street expressing his opinion there is site obstruction for traffic traveling north through the intersection. There is a large healthy Silver Maple approximately 120 feet west of the intersection and Cimprich advised he could see no violation of standards or obstruction of the intersection. Cimprich wanted board members to be made aware of the potential issue. Sixty trees were mulched at Lowe Park and 58 trees planted along Bellboy Drive and the adjacent detention basin as part of an Arbor Day project on April 27. Trees were planted with demonstrations at Longfellow School (in the rain) as part of the Marion Schools *Trees for Kids* event. Cimprich was the guest speaker at the Marion Noon Lions Club and shared information on the city's Urban Forestry program and the Emerald Ash Borer. Another 15 acres of prairie grass were burned at Lowe Park with the assistance of the Fire Department. The burn went smoothly and at this time there are no future burns scheduled. The trees planted along Tenth Street and Boyson are showing stress due to the soil conditions. At this time, they are adding compost to the base of the trees and then will top with mulch to establish better soil for the trees. Upcoming projects include United Way Day of Caring at Legion Park on May 10, a Garlic Mustard Pull at Faulkes Woods on May 12 and LinnMar Senior Service Day on May 23. The City Showcase was held at City Park on May 5 with information being shared with citizens about different city departments and included Urban Forestry as part of the Parks Department information. The large forestry bucket truck was also on display. All the recall items on the bucket truck have been fixed. Work continues on Ash Tree removals throughout the city.

### Board Discussion Time

Tormey reported she has received the Tree Keeper designation and has been invited to the Trees Forever office to meet them and become familiar with their operations.

It was suggested the newly planted Peace Tree at City Park may need to be removed.

### Adjournment

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

Rodney Bluml, Secretary