**MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

January 13, 2016, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Patty Wise, John McIntosh, Terry Speral, Kyle Martin

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Aaron VanMilligan, Darcie Coberly, Mike Cimprich

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Speral to approve the December 9, 2015, regular Park Board minutes. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Moved by Speral and seconded by Martin to approve the December Financial Report. Expenditures sit at 45 percent of budget and the Safe Room revenue is already at 87 percent of estimated revenues. All in favor, motion carried.

The December Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted. Discussion included the payment to the Gazette for the Utility II position advertisement, reimbursement to Broc Dobling for employee clothing allowance, the purchase of a commercial salt spreader from Ace Hardware, payment to Midwest Alarm Services to close out contract, vehicle repairs by Wade’s Auto Collision, the purchase of a carpet cleaner for Thomas Park, payment to Webstaurant Store for tables and chairs at Lowe Park, payment to Linn-Mar School District for rental of gyms for winter programs, and CPO courses for Hummel and Ireland.

Public Input

None.

Election of Officers

Nomination for Chair: McIntosh made a motion to nominate Martin as Chair. Wise seconded. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Speral to close the nominations. All in favor, motion carried. Martin is Chair.

Moved by Wise and seconded by Speral to retain McIntosh as Vice-Chair. All in favor, motion carried. McIntosh is Vice-Chair.

Nomination for Secretary: Wise made a motion to nominate Speral as Secretary. McIntosh seconded. No additional nominations. All in favor, motion carried. Speral is Secretary.

The newly elected officers assumed their roles for the remainder of the meeting.

Hanna Park Roadway Improvement Project

The Engineering Department will be upgrading Fairview Drive during 2016. They approached the department about creating a connecting road in Hanna Park from Fairview Drive to Orchard Road. Carolan explained the scope and timeline of the project which will add sidewalk meeting ADA requirements to join the new road to the trail. The Engineering Department will be the lead on this project.

Snow Plow

In the FY2015-16 capital outlay budget there is $6,000 allocated for the purchase of a snow plow for the light duty F150. Bids were solicited for a 76” snow plow and received from Future Line Truck Equipment (Cedar Rapids) for a Boss poly blade $4,517.55; City Tractor (North Liberty) for a Snow-Way steel blade $4,578.00; and no bid received from Winter Wonderland. Moved by Wise and seconded by McIntosh to approve the purchase of a Boss HTX 76” Ploy Blade Snow Plow with cast iron snow shoes from Future Line Truck Equipment (Cedar Rapids) for $4,517.55. The light duty F150 truck is used by the park attendant during the summer months and in the past has not been used during the winter. The purchase of the plow will allow this truck to be useful year round. All in favor, motion carried.

Linn-Mar School Foundation Request

The department has received a request from the Linn-Mar School Foundation for a donation to the Main Event fundraiser being held April 8, 2016. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Wise to decline the request. Wise felt it was not necessary to provide anything for the event. All in favor, motion carried.

Receive and File: 2015 Annual Pool Report

While daily attendance increased in 2015, family and individual season pass sales were down. This was the first year since 2012 an increase in attendance was seen.

Martin asked if attendance declined over the years due to the opening of the splash pads. Wise mentioned the Noelridge Park Aquatic Center is a facility with many amenities and may be affecting attendance at the Marion Pool. Staff did not feel the opening of the local splash pads impacted attendance at the pool; however, they noted that 2014 was a cooler summer and that there are many facilities within an hour’s drive with fun features for guests.

Operating costs were down as a result of the high efficiency water heater installed before the season opened. But on the same note, the pool’s splash pad was on-line consistently in 2015 after the control pad was replaced.

The 30 year old pool realized a 45 percent cost recovery for the season. Overall the pool is aging well. The Parks Master Plan will include an aquatics study section and bring forth recommendations for the future.

Receive and File: Staff Report

The monthly staff report was received and filed.

Operations staff worked with the Master Gardeners to install the heat curtain system in the Lowe Park Greenhouse.

Demolition of the Thomas Park Green pavilion is on the winter work schedule. The area has many potential uses including parking or bicycle racks and work station area. Work will proceed as times allows.

The 2016 Marion Parks and Recreation program guide has been printed and been distributed throughout the community.

Other

The rock at Waldo’s Rock Park was appearing to shift and become unstable, so stabilizing rock has been brought in. With this, a 12 foot area completely around the rock provides access to all sides of the rock and will be the fishing jetty.

The project calendar for Lowe Park Development will go to City Council on February 18 with the letting to follow. Park Board will review the bids in March. The LOST committee will review the funding request in February.

Carolan introduced City Arborist Mike Cimprich. Cimprich has been with the City for eight years, beginning in the Parks Department as a seasonal employee. Cimprich will plan and oversee tree planting projects, grant application submittals, Tree City USA designation and Growth Award, as well as the contract with Breeden Tree Service and ash tree treatments. Cimprich and Carolan have been working on job descriptions for Arborist Tech I and II with intentions of hiring the Tech I position this spring. Cimprich stated a long term goal will be to complete the public tree inventory.

Carolan noted the City Council appointed a member to the Park Board, but the individual withdrew their name. The Council has discussed expanding some of the boards and commissions, and reviewing the stipend received. The item was tabled.

Board Discussion Time

McIntosh asked about the trail expansion near the Bjornson property. Carolan said the trail development is being handled by the Planning and Development Department.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday,
February 10, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

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 Terry Speral, Secretary