**MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

October 12, 2016, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: John McIntosh, Terry Speral, Patty Wise, Charlie Kress

LATE ARRIVAL: Chair Kyle Martin 4:08 p.m.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Aaron VanMilligan, Karlene Hummel, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Danielle Cook, Bella Feller, Parker Harrington, Diane Toy

Minutes

Moved by Wise and seconded by Speral to approve the September 14, 2016, regular Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

The September Financial Report was reviewed. Staff indicated revenues are a little behind the prior year and expenditures are as expected at the end of September. Moved by Wise and seconded by Kress to approve the September Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

Martin arrived at 4:08 p.m.

The September Invoice Report was reviewed. Associated Swamp Fox Festival payments were processed this month and will continue next month. Noted payments include City of Coralville ($400.00 for two summer movie night events), LL Pelling ($6,085.95 for asphalt material for the Willowood Park walking trail), Midway Outdoor Equipment ($1,034.05 for power blowers, pole saw, and repair parts), Pat McGrath Dodge Ram ($48,527.00 for a 2016 Ram 5500 4x4 truck), Rainbow Treecare ($3,300 for IQ Tree Infuser), Road Machinery ($3,520.00 for dozer rental associated with work at Waldo’s Rock Park), and Townsquare Media ($850 for promotion of summer events at the Amphitheater).

Public Input

None.

Nathan Twedt Memorial Bench Request

Diane Toy submitted a request to place a memorial bench in Legion Park in remembrance of Nathan Twedt. Danielle Cook, Bella Feller, and Parker Harrington, friends of Nathan’s, were in attendance and have been fundraising for a memorial. Wise expressed her sympathy for their loss and commended them on the nice gesture to honor their friend. Moved by Wise and seconded by McIntosh to approve placing a memorial bench in honor of Nathan Twedt in Legion Park. Carolan indicated the department would work with the group for design, wording, and exact placement of the bench. All in favor, motion carried.

City Square Park Peace Tree

The condition of the Peace Tree in City Square Park is poor and not aesthetically pleasing. Staff asked the Board for input about the future of the tree. The Tree Board had mixed comments regarding removal and replacement. Kress asked when is the best time to plant conifers; Carolan stated now is a good time. Martin felt this should be discussed after the Library and Streetscape plans are firmed up and the Chamber should provide input for the replacement location. Wise and Martin asked what size and species would be replanted; staff indicated a 6’ to 8’ evergreen would be best with a 2½” to 3’ caliper. Kress feels it would be best to wait to remove the tree until next year. The Board directed staff to not remove the tree this year, assess all trees in City Square Park, and work with the City Arborist and Tree Board to plant a tree in the spring.

Receive and File

The 2016 Annual Pool Report was received and filed. Hummel gave an overview of the season. Overall, attendance and revenues were down. There were no accidents other than the minor cuts and scrapes. The swim team had 33 participants. Hummel thanked the maintenance staff for their work at the pool from the beginning to the end of the season.

The 2016 Consignment Ticket Sales Report was received and filed. Ticket sales were up by 9 percent with a total of 397 tickets sold. The department was notified that next year Adventureland will not be participating in the consignment ticket program.

Other Items

None.

Staff Report

The monthly staff report was received and filed.

The Lowe Park Development project has 10 working days remaining and several items still need to be addressed.

Construction for the Art in the Alley project is almost complete. The next step will include placing the art pieces. The Parks Department will take over maintenance of the alley.

Pond work at Waldo’s Rock Park will begin in late October

Speral left at 5:06 p.m.

As a result of new regulations related to length of employment of our seasonal employees in a calendar year, several members of our operations staff have been laid off for the season. The same amount of work is now being performed by fewer employees. This will be factored into future budgeting for full-time employees.

Wise, Swamp Fox Festival Chair, gave a recap of the event. She thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for their part in making the event a success.

The department was awarded the Trees for Kids Fall 2016 Grant in the amount of $1,140 to plant 12 trees along 10th Street adjacent to Linn-Mar High School. The Marion Blue Zones Project will be providing $500 of remaining grant funding to continue the development of the Lowe Park Urban Orchard.

Lil’ Chippers Golf, which used the new SNAG (Starting New at Golf) equipment, was very popular this year as a debut program for children ages 6 to 10. The May and September programs were both filled to capacity with waiting lists each time.

Board Discussion Time

McIntosh was asked by the property owner at 1600 10th Street about purchasing some of the greenspace adjacent to their property. Carolan stated the request would need to be made to the City Council.

McIntosh asked who is responsible for mowing the north side of Highway 100 between Munier Road and South 31st Street. Staff indicated that the state is responsible.

Kress shared that a group from Ukraine recently visited the area and were very impressed with the community.

Martin’s employer, Martin Gardner Architecture Firm, recently began working with Iowa BIG. The program connects high school students and local businesses to develop and complete projects to benefit the community. One possible project could be working on the old railroad bridges.

Wise shared that she will be having knee surgery on October 18.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday,
November 9, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

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 Terry Speral, Secretary