**MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES**

July 8, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Patty Wise, John McIntosh, Amy Hussel, Kyle Martin

ABSENT: Bryan Fiscus

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Seth Staashelm, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Nicholas Streng

Based on COVID-19 guidance from Linn County Public Health and the State of Iowa to limit the size of groups gathering, this meeting was held electronically. The agenda and City’s website provided instructions on how others could participate in the meeting.

Minutes

Moved by Hussel and seconded by McIntosh to approve the June 10, 2020, regular Park Board minutes and the June 22, 2020, special Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

The June Financial Report was reviewed. Moved by Wise and seconded by Hussel to approve the June Financial Report. Carolan stated program and rental refunds through the end of June were issued for over $35,000 which reflected in the general fund revenues ending at 53 percent of budget. Fortunately, expenses were also down ending at 86 percent of budget. The Urban Forestry ended under budget at 98 percent for revenues and 91 percent for expenditures. All in favor, motion carried.

The June Invoice Report was received, discussed, and filed. The following payments were highlighted and reviewed: Crescent Electric (Hanna Park Fitness Trail bollard lighting installation) $11,406.67, Iowa Base Inc (Hanna Park Fitness Trail bollard bases) $3,840, and Prochaska Greenhouse (flowers and plants for planters and beds) $1,525.42.

Public Input

None.

Gill Park & Prairie Hill Park Master Plans

Nicholas Streng with Snyder & Associates presented the master plans for both Gill and Prairie Hill Park. A public input meeting was held at the end of February to gather feedback from the community.

For Gill Park, the main entrance will be from Irish Drive on the north side of the park. The loop trail and splash pad will remain; suggested additions include two small pavilions, basketball court/ice rink, and four pickleball courts. Wise asked about the number of parking stalls. Streng indicated there are 35 hard surfaced spaces and room for overflow on the grass. The probable cost for the improvements as presented are $2,084,053.

Prairie Hill Park is prone to seasonal flooding and the future Squaw Creek Trail will lay along the east edge, so these were factored into the layout and amenities. The master plan calls for a ball diamond, natural vegetation areas, restroom, pavilion, basketball court/ice rink, playground, trail head, greenspace, and loop trail. There will be 20 parking spaces; Wise felt there should be more available. The probable cost for development of this park is $1,132,439.50

Wise asked if there are funds allocated for either of these projects. Carolan indicated there are some funds budgeted for Prairie Hill but none for Gill Park. Staashelm said work on Prairie Hill will be a three-year project and is scheduled to begin this fiscal year. The Gill Park project will span two fiscal years but begin not for another five years.

Lininger Park Drinking Fountain Bids

Staff solicited bids for a drinking fountain to be installed near the Lininger Park Pavilion. This will be identical to the one installed at the new Lowe Park Playground which includes a bottle filler and pet bowl. Bids were received from Kay Park for $6,637.12, Most Dependable Fountain $4,620, and Wilough Stainless Fountains $5,086.06. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Hussel to approve purchasing the Lininger Park Drinking Fountain from Most Dependable Fountains in the amount of $4,620. All in favor, motion carried.

Receive and File

A note from Linn County Elections was received to say thank you for the use of Lowe Park and Thomas Park for the primary election on June 2.

A note and monetary donation were received from the family of Jip Fleming. Jip was a peewee baseball coach for many years and loved baseball.

Other Action or Discussion Items

None.

Staff Reports

The department’s staff report was presented. Splash Pads were opened with extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Pool Feasibility Study kick-off meeting was June 29. The Horticulturist position was offered to Mary Weber, who will begin work on July 15. The department was approached to develop a Soccer Mini Pitch field and program. PeeWee softball and baseball programs began in late June. The Friends of Marion Parks opened their Photo Scavenger Hunt. The upcoming Drive-In Moonlit Movie is taking reservations on-line and is half full.

Carolan extended a personal thank you to the Park Board and said it has been a privilege working with them to serve the community. His retirement brings mixed emotions but pride when reflecting on the great accomplishments of the department. He shared it has been his pleasure serving as director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Carolan’s last day in the office will be July 31. Wise noted the City of Marion has benefitted greatly from his service, dedication and vision and wished him many happy years of fishing.

Board Discussion Time

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

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