

MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES

September 9, 2015, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

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

ABSENT: Charles Kress

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

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Seral to approve the August 12, 2015, regular Park Board minutes. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Moved by Wise and seconded by Seral to approve the August Financial Report. During August recreation fees and pool admissions were up compared to the prior year, and Lowe concessions were down due to rainouts. All in favor, motion carried.

The August Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted.

Public Input

None.

Modern Piping Maintenance Agreement for Arts & Environment Center

The three year agreement with Modern Piping for maintenance of the HVAC at the Arts & Environment Center expired in August. Carolan would like to approve a one year agreement at the same rate as the prior agreement with the same company and get bids next year for both Parks facilities to be maintained by one company. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Seral to approve a one year agreement with Modern Piping for HVAC maintenance for \$3,912 annually at the Arts & Environment Center. All in favor, motion carried.

Sejkora Farms, Inc. Farmland Agreement

The annual lease agreement is being renewed with Sejkora Farms for farmland on Lowe Park. Due to the development of the south entrance, the number of acres on the lease is being reduced. The price per acre will remain the same. Moved by Wise and seconded by Martin to recommend to City Council approval of the one-year lease agreement with Sejkora Farms, Inc. for 33 acres at a rate of \$250 per acre. All in favor, motion carried.

Annual Operating Season for Pools and Splash Pads

The Marion swimming pool and splash pads do not have established operating seasons. Currently staff target opening on Memorial Day and closing after Labor Day weekend. Wise said she likes to see the pool open on Labor Day weekend. Hummel said a lot of pool employees go off to college or become busy with school sports and related practices. Attendance drops drastically after school begins and Hummel recommends to reducing weekday hours at that time. Wise asked how much time it takes for shut down and the end of season maintenance process. VanMilligan said removing fittings, clearing lines, cleaning, and painting takes about 40 man

hours. Wise asked about extending the season until September 15. VanMilligan said the water temperature drops after Labor Day weekend. Carolan said establishing an operating season will help staff to plan work schedules for employees. Moved by Martin and seconded by Wise to take staff recommendations and establish the operating season for pools and splash pads to be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. All in favor, motion carried.

Legion Park Pavilion Project

The Brown Pavilion in Thomas Park was removed about five years ago. A new pavilion in Legion Park is a scheduled project to be funded with \$280,000 of LOST funds. The new pavilion would be a chalet style warming house and useable year round. After reviewing the project and possible locations for the new pavilion, Carolan indicated there are many challenges to meet ADA requirements for parking. The project would require a lot of excavation and grading into the hillside. Carolan feels this would impact the park aesthetically and is asking for direction from the Board before he develops the RFP for design work. Martin feels a pavilion would be a nice feature to the popular park and requested a study be completed to see if a new pavilion could be placed in the park. Wise asked if there would be room near the ice rink. Staff indicated the area is prone to flooding with heavy rains and the new location will need to be higher than the current restroom building, which may impact the disc golf course. Carolan said if the project was not feasible he would request the LOST committee to redirect the funding to the Lowe Park Development project. Wise said a new pavilion would be a wonderful asset in Thomas Park, but the funding would be good for development at Lowe Park. Martin acknowledged there have been a lot of changes to Thomas and Legion Parks since the conceptual plan was developed and he will take a look at the grades of the land to make a recommendation if a new pavilion would be feasible.

Receive and File

The monthly staff report was received and filed. The IDNR permit was approved and received by staff. Shoemaker Haaland has finished the project manual and the project calendar will be presented to City Council on September 17. If successful bids are received, work could begin as early as November 9, but must be finished by June 30, 2016, with work being completed within 25 days of starting.

The REAP Grant Application for Waldo's Rock Park Development will be presented to the state committee on September 17. In the Director's absence, Assistant to the City Manager Amanda Kauffman will attend to field questions about the project.

Swamp Fox Festival is fast approaching. Wise is co-chairing the event and said plans are coming together nicely. The event is paying tribute to veterans and should be amazing. The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, and concludes with fireworks at Lowe Park that evening.

Master Park Plan work continues. Survey results are being reviewed by the steering committee. Carolan is working with Confluence to set up the next public meeting.

Urban Forestry employee Mike Cimprich has earned the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist credentials after successfully completing the certified arborist exam. There are several tree planting projects on the schedule, including 40 trees along Tower Terrace Road (Alliant Energy Branching Out grant), 10 trees along 10th Street (Trees for Kids grant), and 50 community street trees at various locations.

Master Gardeners is pursuing the purchase of a heat shade for the Lowe Park Greenhouse to help with reducing heating costs during the winter. The shade will be purchased by the Linn

County Extension Service and partially funded by the Department. It is estimated a return on investment would be realized in heat savings in 3.7 years.

The third and final phase of the cemetery asphalt project is now complete.

Operations staff painted arches at City Hall and completed sidewalk repairs around the buildings at Thomas and Lowe Parks. Martin noted repairs outside of the Arts and Environment building look great.

The first Amphitheater Movie Night on August 14 was well attended by around 350 people. 2016 Movie Nights are tentatively scheduled for June 16 and August 19.

Sunrise Yoga was a successful partnership with the Marion Blue Zones Project with over 700 people attending classes over the summer. Youth football programs are underway with over 260 kids participating in the peewee and 2nd to 5th grade levels. Fall into Fitness at the Amphitheater is another partner program with the Marion Blue Zones Project happening on Tuesdays in September.

The Art Council's Picnic on the Prairie drew in an estimated 450 people at the Amphitheater with the ever popular Carol Montag and Carlis Faurot performing on August 22.

Staff are working on a music concert for 2016 which will be funded by hotel-motel tax revenues. Some ideas coming forward include dueling pianos and a karaoke band group.

Terry Speral left at 5:00.

Carolan will be on vacation from September 14 through September 25, and Hummel will be on vacation from September 14 through September 18. During that time, VanMilligan will be in charge.

Kona Ice remitted a donation of \$439 from their sales in Thomas Park during the summer.

Board Discussion Time

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

Kyle Martin, Secretary