

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
****Riverview Center****

Members Present: Gina Othmer, Pete Degabriele, Rick Bierman, Dana LaRue and Jennifer DeFosse

Members Absent: Angie Haller and Brad Bark

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

DeFosse moved to elect Brad Bark as Chairperson. Second by LaRue. LaRue moved to elect Jennifer DeFosse as Vice-Chairperson. Second by Othmer. All ayes; motion carries.

Minutes of the March 3, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Discussion – Tree Board

Staff explained what the Tree Board does and that it consists of the Chairperson and of the Vice-Chairperson along with 4 City staff members.

Discussion – Community Splash Pads

Commission members were shown a map of the south end of Muscatine where there is potential to add a couple community splash pads due to a private donation. Commission was in favor of the idea.

Discussion – Community All-Inclusive Playground

Taylor Park playground will be updated to become all-inclusive due to a private donation. The park will also be upgraded to include: additional parking, new shelter, restroom and pickleball courts. Musser Park will potentially also have an upgrade to its playground to include all inclusive features. Commission was in favor of the idea.

Discussion – Muscatine Slough Improvements

The Muscatine slough will be getting some improvements to include potentially connecting the Kent Stein Park trail to Taylor Park due to a private donation.

Update – City Deer Hunt

Staff discussed the approval process and details on the City Deer Hunt. Commission was informed that a Councilmember has asked the City to reconsider allowing the deer hunt to take place on City property. The Commission discussed the concept and by unanimous consensus was not in favor of allowing the Deer Hunt Program to utilize City parks or active use green spaces.

Update – Special Event Listing

Staff distributed and discussed the most recent Special Event Listing.

Update – Projects

Staff gave an update on the following projects: Soccer West drainage, Houser Hill retaining wall art project, Zoo Garden upgrades and FEMA projects.

Other Business

Staff informed Commission that the College Search Kickoff will take place July 22-25, 2021 and any volunteers for the event would be greatly appreciated.

The City Human Resources Manager, Stephanie Romagnoli, is working with Healthy Hometowns and would like to come to a meeting at a later date to discuss banning smoking in parks and on City property.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator