

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
****Muscatine Municipal Golf Course****

Members Present: Brad Bark, Pete Degabriele, Jennifer DeFosse, Gina Othmer and Rick Bierman

Members Absent: Sarah Hoeg and Dana LaRue

Staff Present: Rich Klimes and Brian Kuddes

Guests Present: Monica Ryant

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

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

Discussion – City of Muscatine Smoking Policy

The current City of Muscatine Smoking Policy and Iowa Smokefree Air Act were distributed and discussed. The current smoking policy for the City was revised in November 2014 to abide by the State Code at the time. Ryant informed the Commission the State of Iowa updated their Smokefree Air Act in 2020. The State is encouraging communities to adopt the new policy given the current rise in e-cigarettes. Healthy Hometowns in conjunction with New Horizons would like to request that all City of Muscatine parks facilities adopt a tobacco/nicotine free policy. If the City adopts the new policy unlimited free signage will be provided to help communicate to the citizens.

Commission had two areas of concern for a tobacco/nicotine free policy at all parks facilities which included enforcement and the golf course. Staff will reach out to other golf courses in the area to see what their policies are and report back at the next meeting. Healthy Hometowns will also draft a new policy and present at the next meeting.

Update – Parks and Recreation Department Budget

Status quo service levels were discussed with the Commission. Staff also distributed and discussed the Programs and Facilities Fact Sheet.

Update – Programs and Projects

Staff updated commission on the current recreational programs taking place for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Candy Cane Hunt will take place Friday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm on the riverfront. The Holiday Stroll will also take place on 2nd street from 5:30 – 8 pm that night. The Festival of Lights will kick off as well that evening and run through December 26th. There will be multiple light displays on each night from 5:30-7:30 pm with food donations being accepted for local food pantries. Musco will also run a lighted show on the bridge with Christmas music which can be heard by tuning into 87.9 FM. The lighted bridge show will start December 3rd and run through the month of December.

Elves Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 1 – 3 pm at the Muscatine Mall. The Muscatine Area Farmers Market will also be hosting A Handcrafted Christmas event from 10 am – Noon that day at the mall.

Staff gave an update on the South End Improvement Fund Projects. A resolution setting a public hearing for the Southend Playground Development Project will be presented at tomorrow night's City Council meeting. Staff will also request to purchase 3 shelters and a modular restroom as part of the South End improvement Fund Projects at the meeting.

Other Business

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator