

MINUTES
Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 – 5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present: Janell Kassel, Greg Harper, Kim Warren, Brad Bark, Tim Riley, Dana Kraft, and Al Wagner

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Mayor Hopkins

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Nick Gow, Les Dennis, and Mark Even

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

Motion to approve minutes of the January 2, 2013 regular meeting. Moved by Harper. Second by Wagner. All ayes; motion carries.

Presentation – Band Shell

Mayor Hopkins distributed handouts to the Commission and discussed the Glass Armadillo Band Shell concept plan. The band shell would be located on the riverfront in the grassy area next to the basketball courts. This area is six feet higher in elevation than the surrounding terrain; therefore, putting the structure further out of reach to possible flooding.

Kassel asked if the Band Shell would be rented out through the City. Mayor Hopkins stated people would be required to pay some type of fee. Klimes stated he believes it would go to the Parks and Recreation Department and have a fee structure approved by the City Council. Bark asked if the City would provide speakers for the structure. Mayor Hopkins stated most people would hire their own sound equipment. Mayor Hopkins stated the Community Foundation has a sound system which could be used.

Warren asked what the \$200,000 difference is between the two plans. Mayor Hopkins stated he believes it is due to the plantings. Harper asked if there would be bleachers. Mayor Hopkins stated no bleachers, but people would be allowed to bring lawn chairs. Kraft asked if the band shell would be terraced. Mayor Hopkins stated that would be another option, but he believes it to be an unnecessary expense. Riley stated he thinks the terraced plan would take into account mother nature. Mayor Hopkins stated he believes the structure would withstand flooding. Warren asked how much maintenance the building would require. Mayor Hopkins stated there would not be much to maintain. Bark asked how much the glass would be to replace if the facility was

vandalized. Mayor Hopkins stated every building is subject to vandalism and he thinks the glass would be easier to clean or replace rather than concrete. Kraft asked if the grass could withhold all the activity it may see. Gow stated maintenance will be required to maintain the grass. Klimes stated there will be wear and tear to the turf from events but that is typical for grass surfaces.

Klimes asked Even to discuss the trees in the concept plan. Even stated the concept plan is calling for Sycamore trees to be placed along the trail. These trees can reach a height of 75 feet and are not a good idea for this area. They are very messy, have loose twigs, susceptible to disease which would cause the loss of leaves, and the seed pods will stain the concrete. There is an irritant in the pods as well. The concept plan also calls for Locust trees to be placed behind the Band Shell. These trees can reach a height of 75 feet as well and will block the view from the city side. Klimes asked the Commission if they were okay with the loss of visibility to the river. The Commission stated they were not in favor of that idea. Kraft stated she believes there needs to be trees due to people needing shade on hot summer days, but maybe not as many as the plan calls for. Kassel stated there needs to be different tree choices.

Bark stated he thinks the glass will be an expensive thing to maintain. Riley stated he likes the idea of the glass but is not sure if it is practical. Kraft stated the City of Davenport has had many issues with their glass structures. Harper stated maybe there is some other synthetic material that could be used instead of glass.

Klimes asked the Commission if they liked the location for the Band Shell. Harper stated it would be better up river due to there already being an access road. All other Commission members thought the location was okay.

Commission Member Kraft moved to approve the concept plan for the Glass Armadillo Band Shell as presented by Mayor Hopkins subject to: the project include an adequate access and egress to the site that will not damage the trail, the design address positive drainage needs at the site, limit the amount of trees with a tree species review provided by the Tree Committee, the project site should not have a raised berm in the center grass area, no loose rock material in the landscaping plan, review of glass construction material for a more maintenance friendly material, and an identified funding source for future maintenance. Seconded by Commission Members Kassel, Warren, Bark, Riley, Kraft, and Wagner. One nay: Commission Member Harper. Motion carried.

Discussion – Central Weed Park Corridor Project

Klimes presented the Commission with the concept idea of placing a large corporate sized shelter on the site where the old pool was located. Klimes asked the Commission if they wanted to see a year round heated and cooled shelter or a seasonal shelter. By consensus, the Commission preferred a seasonal shelter as the infrastructure of the park does not support a year round

facility. Klimes asked the Commission if they wanted the restrooms attached to the shelter or located in a separate area. After much discussion, by consensus, the Commission requested the restrooms be located in a separate area. Klimes informed the Commission that he would prepare a concept plan and cost estimate for their review.

Request – Kent Stein Park Diamond #4 Outfield Fence Screen

Klimes stated there is currently a gate around diamond 4 and the Muscatine High School charges gate fees at their events. Now the high school would like to put a screen up in the outfield as well. Klimes stated visibility would be impacted by putting in slats. Riley stated the MGSA does not want to see a screen put up. Klimes asked the Commission if they approve the outside screen fence. The Commission stated no.

Other Business

Dennis stated the Park Maintenance staff reconfigured the long dock slips in the boat harbor for this year. Now all slips will have a uniform width. Klimes stated the slip numbers have been changed too. Harper asked if the number of slips were reduced. Dennis stated yes, but that all slips were different widths which made it difficult to assign boats and some slips had to be removed due to maintenance issues.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held at City Hall in the lower level conference room at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 6th, 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Shaw
Office Coordinator