

**Clear Lake Parks and Recreation
Regular Board Meeting
CLP&R Office Building
January 25, 2010**

Chairperson Stuart Trembath called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Trembath, Finstad, Berding, Merfeld, Blaha

Others Present: Keefe, Miller

Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes from November 23, 2009, the most recent official parks board meeting, were presented. No changes or questions arose regarding the presented minutes.

B/C. Accounts Payable- Dec. 2009 and Jan 2010. Keefe reviewed major expenditures. Mason City Tent and Awning repaired windscreens for the tennis courts (\$653.50). In addition, a replacement awning for the Main Street restroom was purchased through North Iowa Tent and Awning (\$1,225.00). The Main Street restroom is budgeted separately from the rest of Parks and Recreation. A new computer was needed and purchased through Snyder computer service (\$1,040.00), due to the failing of the old computer. And Shineway Services provided the restroom cleaning duties (\$926.00 and \$1,325.00 respectively).

A motion was made by Finstad, second by Blaha, to accept the consent agenda as presented, all members voting aye.

Financial Reports:

Computer hardware category is represented as negative because of the need for the new Parks and Rec. Computer when the old tower crashed. The Ice-skating rink manager, Rob Bell, was forwarded half of his management fees for the season to offset his costs associated with hiring evening rink supervisors. Keefe commented on the "fabulous job" he has been doing, and the positive remarks from the public regarding his work at the rink. The Aquatic Center zero depth "duck slide" was discussed.

Unfinished Business:

A. Program Report, Aquatic Center, Park Work, Monthly Planning Calendar

All life guarding staff that worked last year has been contacted regarding the upcoming season and required classes. The search for a pool manager is still ongoing, if a manager cannot be found, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Randy Miller will manage the pool next summer. The Spring/Summer Activity Guide will be finalized by mid-February, at which point (on an unrelated but humorous note) Mother Nature added her opinion vigorously on the matter, whistling through the office windows via 40-50 mph winds. Board Chairman Trembath subsequently sought the shelter of the furthest unoccupied seat from the windows ☺. Upcoming events include the wrestling tournament, indoor soccer, and the Valentine program. Keefe briefly mentioned that a few programs have struggled to meet the minimum requirements for registration. She believes that the economy has a lot to do with this. An attendance sheet for the weekend open gym program was reviewed, and it was suggested by Keefe to eliminate the adult portion of the Open Gym program due to continued low attendance. Berding suggested a "generational difference of interests" is the reason behind the low attendance. The summer seasonal help will be finalized by

March, and the dock committee will meet again prior to the boating season. A budget review will be conducted when the Parks and Recreation budget is approved sometime in February.

B. Public Dock Update

The Dock Committee met a few weeks ago. Information was compiled by Hope Wheatcraft, and made available to the Park Board members as a handout. Finstad commented the informational packet is intended to cover “a few gray areas”, and to let the dock tenants know what is expected of them. The packet is also intended to provide consistency with regards to rules and expectations related to dock usage.

C. FY Budget

Keefe mentioned that the operating budget is essentially the same, but was increased by 2.7 percent. The largest increase coming under the revenue generating programs. This is because the department offered more programs, requiring more money for instructors. The increase is offset by the revenue brought in through the fee’s assessed during these programs. The money for replacing the playground equipment at Tourist Park was reduced to \$25,000, because that is what was spent for the equipment at Pine Tree Park. The new playground equipment may have to wait until next year due to proposed improvements to the parking area and drainage at Tourist Park. The proposed improvements include asphaltting the surface of the parking lot. The money for the tennis court improvements is dependant on the condition of the courts next year. The \$6000.00 for new carpet in the Lakeview Room was removed because the carpet has been cleaned and can get by for another year. Finally, the \$16,000.00 for recreational complex development was removed from the budget. The pool budget was increased \$8000.00 for capital improvements, of which, \$2000.00 is for a storage building, and \$6000.00 is for chaise lounge chairs. Discussion continued regarding the availability of the county owned property behind the aquatic center, and the proposed layout of the Tourist Park parking lot improvements. It was determined that we need to request, if possible, to increase the number of parking spots for vehicles towing boat trailers.

D. City Ordinance Update

City Attorney Charlie Biebersheimer was unavailable for the board meeting, so the updates were not discussed.

Unfinished Business:

A. City Park Beautification bids

Keefe reviewed the bids/schematics of the two proposed improvements to the SE corner of City Park, one bid prepared by Country Landscapes, the other by Natural Plus. Each proposal would take care of the mud that often occurs in that area of the park, and integrate landscaping to “soften” that corner of the park. It was discussed that placing patio tables and chairs on the new pavers would allow people to use the area for picnics/lunch. Berding raised concerns about how the plans would affect logistics during the 4th of July Celebration. Trembath stated trees should not be planted too close to the road, so as to allow vehicles to continue using the access. Blaha stated that he likes the idea of having trees integrated into the plan. Trembath suggested that Keefe and Miller discuss the tree issue with Natural Plus, and get their take on options.

B. Usage Requests for the 2010 Season

Blaha made a motion to approve the City Park usage requests for the 2010 season, second by Berding, all members voting aye.

C. Mike Eddy- Concerned citizen

Mike was unable to attend the meeting, but the board discussed his inquiry regarding the city purchasing and using Sunset School as a new headquarters for Park and Recreation.

The board discussed how the building does not fulfill the needs of the department in regards to more useable gym space, and that additional gym space needs to be added to accommodate those needs. Trembath added that he shared that information with City Council, and that those funds would be better spent improving the recreational area.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

S/_____
Chairperson, Stuart Trembath

S/_____
Assistant Director, Randy Miller