

Leisure Services Commission Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2018 7:00pm
Civic Center Waverly Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carver, Cashman, Johnson, Neuendorf, Pins, Solheim, Winter
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
COUNCIL PRESENT: Birgen
STAFF PRESENT: Ray
VISITORS: None

SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTION: Chairperson Solheim called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Motion: To approve January 18, 2018 minutes as presented.

05-18 Moved: Cashman Seconded: Pins
Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0

Regular Business

1. Activity signs "Born Learning"

Ray introduced a request from Waverly United Way to install the "Born Learning" program somewhere visible on the trail system. He explained that the program was a series of signs and pavement markings that encourage parent/child interactions by activities and learning. He presented a video from the "Born Learning" website to show what the signs say and some of the pavement markings. Ray indicated that no site has been selected but possibilities could be by the Crestwood Park trail west of Southeast School, the prairie trail east of Southeast School, and the south end of South Riverside Park.

Waverly United Way has some funding designated for early childhood development that could pay for the program. They think they could get volunteers to install the signage and paint the pavement markings. The Commission thought the trail between the Waverly Childcare and Pre School, the Public Library, and West Cedar School has a lot of kids and parents foot traffic. Bergan said the trail between West Cedar and the Library is a soft trail of mulch that would not work for any pavement markings. Ray informed the Commission that Leisure Services mows the Library so anything on that property would still be maintained by staff.

Ray said the United Way Board will decide on this at their April meeting so there is time to get more information and view potential sites. He will put this again on the March 15 meeting agenda.

2. Trail entrance plan/ funding

We have heard from several sources that our trail entrance appearance is substandard. Recently, we have received some memorial funds that are directed at the trail. The local Rotary Club was looking for a project to donate some Rotary grant funds and have the members actively participate in the development.

The City contacted a local landscaper to come up with an idea to enhance the entrance to the Waverly Rail Trail Trailhead area. The challenge was to make it look better with limited funding resources and be maintainable.

Ray reviewed the proposed landscaping plan for the trail head area. The proposal has multiple plantings of prairie grasses that capture the Iowa prairie/rural concept. The signature features are the limestone block that will be stacked in two places with plantings (one with lettering for the entrance sign), and be accents with single blocks in the trail grass medians.

The plan is to remove existing sculpture and split rail fence, excavate the areas for planting and placing block, get a supply of compost and mulch, and begin installation. The local Rotarians and trail volunteers

would be involved in the planting of the grass plants with local landscaper prepping the planting and installing the block. City staff will do the restoration work. The estimated cost is \$9,816. Funding for the project is from a Rotary Club grant, some memorials that were designated for trail work, Cedar Trails Partnership funds, and City Parks funds.

Solheim asked if the planting in the median will affect future resurfacing of the trail. Ray indicated he thought the plants could be salvaged and the paver could hop over the excavated spots. There is still a desire to keep the trail sculpture so Ray will look into possible sculpture locations, maybe closer to Bremer Avenue. The Commission thought the large limestone block could carry on as theme through the park system. Overall the Commission was favorable to the design.

Motion: To recommend to staff to proceed with the Trailhead Enhancement Project as presented.

06-18 Moved: Neuendorf Seconded: Johnson
Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0

3. Budget update

Ray reported the budget was approved as presented. We will be adding staff for Vegetation Management and about \$220,000 for Phase 1 South Riverside Park Renovation.

4. Fair and Droste Building

There has not been any new news on the status of the Fair and the report from the architect on the Fair buildings.

Director's Report:

Weekly update was sent out.

Ray shared the Food Fight contest between the Library and the Civic Center to collect food in the Enough 4 Everybody food receptacles located at both facilities. He said the contest is from February 19 to March 19 and the winning facility will collect the most pounds of food. He highly recommended to the Commission to bring their food contributions to the Civic Center.

Chairperson's Report

Solheim noted the trees growing in front of the East Welcome Sign. Ray will look into it.

Solheim asked about the Fireman's Convention and the restoration of Prairie Park. Ray said there has been no formal agreement made but the intent was to have a professional landscaper restore the acre of prairie at the convention's cost after the event.

Next Meeting:

March 15, 2018

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tab Ray
Commission Secretary
Leisure Services Director