

Leisure Services Commission Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2019 7:00pm
Civic Center Waverly Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnson, Neuendorf, Pins, Solheim,
MEMBERS ABSENT: Carver, Cashman, Winter
COUNCIL PRESENT: Birgen
STAFF PRESENT: Ray
VISITORS: Amanda Ramthun, WHC Community Health Specialist

SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTION: Chairperson Solheim called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Motion: To approve December 10, 2018 minutes as presented.

01-19 Moved: Johnson Secoded: Neuendorf
Yes: 4 No: 0 Absent: 3

Regular Business

1. Election of officers

Motion: To approve the nomination of Neuendorf as Chairperson and Johnson as Vice Chairperson of the Leisure Services Commission for 2019.

02-19 Moved: Solheim Secoded: Pins
Yes: 4 No: 0 Absent: 3

2. Tobacco Policy

Amanda Ramthun, Waverly Health Center Community Health Specialist has been working with staff to propose a "no nicotine" policy for the parks system. She highlighted the wording in the Leisure Services Mission Statement and related phrases to a no nicotine policy.

A policy would provide a healthier outside environment and reduces littering by not having the butts everywhere. Enforcement will be complaint driven and it does not discourage people from using tobacco, only where they can.

She gave a presentation that was based upon the Waverly Leisure Services Mission Statement:

Simple Truth: Tobacco is harmful to the community and the environment.

Proposal: All Waverly parks and trails designated tobacco and nicotine free.

Leisure Services Mission: We believe in making the good life better by providing safe, modern, well maintained, and aesthetically pleasing environments for the community of today and tomorrow.

Safe

- Dangers of Secondhand Smoke
- There is no risk free level of secondhand smoke.
- Emissions from e-cigarettes.
- Ingestion of other tobacco product waste.

Modern

- Progressive Community
- Progress toward better conditions.
- More social connections in the community.
- Over 100 communities statewide have already taken this action.

Well Maintained and Aesthetically Pleasing

- Appealing and Inviting Environments
- Cleaner environment and less pollution of land and water.
- No tobacco product waste to spend time cleaning up.

Today and Tomorrow

- Example for Youth, Community Members and Other Communities
- Children mimic adult behavior – it normalizes tobacco use.
- Setting an example for healthy choices.
- Fewer opportunities for youth to begin tobacco use.

Wins:

- Potential for lasting impact on tobacco use in the community.
- Improvements to the health of residents.
- Enhanced outdoor environments for local families and visitors.

Motion: To recommend to the City Council to approve a no nicotine policy in the Parks and Trails System excluding the golf course, Memorial Park Ball Diamonds, and the County Fair area with the caveat of when the conversion takes place when the fair and diamonds move from the current location, those areas become nicotine free.

03-19

Moved: Neuendorf

Seconded: Pins

Yes: 4

No: 0

Absent: 3

3. Budget Update

Ray reviewed the highlights for the 2019-20 budget.

- a. Parking lot hard surfacing- the plans are to hard surface the parks parking lots including: Pelican, Kohlmann, Red Cedar, Main Lift Station, and Trailhead,
- b. South Riverside Park Phase 3 - construction of the large activity shelter
- c. Vegetation Management- new position
- d. Dog Park Walk- bids are due March 5. At that time, we will contact the contributor.
- e. Director replacement- Applications will be taken until March 4. Apps will be vetted to cut the number down to 3-5 individuals. Interviews will occur in March with the plan to have the new person start by May 1.

4. South Riverside Park Plans and Specifications

Ray reviewed the plans for the Exchange Building. Questions included the cold portion of the building being used for a shelter, while the warm portion can be reserved except for when the Garden Club utilizes it for their plant sale each May. The restroom door will have a security light so if the door is left open in the winter, the light will show on the street side. Dan Hatala will be doing the railroad themed mural.

5. Initial discussion of Santa House being the Exchange Building

The Commission had a vigorous discussion of this topic. The current site has the location on Bremer Avenue that is very visible and nostalgic since its been there for years. The Santa House adds to the festiveness to the area.

Those that had taken their children recently said this past year the weather was mild and the line was all the way to the Bremer Avenue bridge sidewalk. Some had stood in the cold wind in the past for more than an hour. One only took their kids when it was at the Library because of the temperature and other things to do.

Many thought that the Exchange Building would work because the actual visit would be in a warm location and part of the line could be inside. A portion of the funds could be used to festively decorate and light the Exchange Building so there would be funds left over for other community decorations. There could be other activities in the area including a future ice rink, photo op stations, possibly an activity when the new open shelter is done. There is a restroom on site and it is accessible.

Ray reported the new Santa House will use the \$5,000 from the City Holiday Lights fund, donated labor from the Kiwanis valued at \$3,000, and then another \$3,000 that will need to be fundraised for the remainder of the materials.

One commissioner suggested to extend the hours longer so that people could plan their visit and the lines would be shorter.

Final tally: 4 Commissioners felt the Exchange Building would be a good move and the public would get used to it after the first year. One commissioner responded it should remain at Kohlmann.

6. Public Art Grant- Kinetic Wind Sculpture

Ray showed the video of the proposed Double Dancer art piece the grant is based upon. This one was large enough to be seen and tall enough so that people/kids could not reach it without trying. Birgen liked the ones where the motion was asymmetrical so the feature would visually change shape rather than symmetrical like the proposed one. Ray would be open to anything as long as it was large enough to be out of reach. Ray will submit the grant at the current piece level and if awarded, a final decision can be made.

Director's Report:

- Ray reported the Strategic Planning from last fall had River Improvements as one of their objectives. Neuendorf had come over from the now defunct Flood Mitigation and River Use Commission to this commission to have a voice for the river. Ray suggested to have a meeting to brainstorm ideas about river improvements and then put together a list of projects/activities and prioritize them for the future. Maybe an extended future LS Commission meeting can be dedicated to this.
- The WSR Science Club Brochure is in the packet.
- Ray wanted to confirm that the Wilmour's Woodland Estates Park Dedication was in writing in the development agreements and to have the Commission remember that at the time of development the dedication must be included in the development.

Chairperson Report

Commissioner Pins reported that he has been the representative on the Wartburg Waverly Health and Wellness Center ("W") Board and that Wartburg has decided to dissolve that board. There are no longer any City funds going to support the "W". Ray will contact Wartburg to get a formal notice.

Next Meeting:

March 21, 2019

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tab Ray
Commission Secretary
Leisure Services Director