

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MADISON PARKS, RECREATION & DOCK BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5:00PM**  
**FORT MADISON, IOWA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Decker, Tara Johnson, Mary Ann Gaudette and Trish Hall

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sue Pieper and Jesus Garcia

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** John Luna, Dawn Helling and Council Liaison Brian Wright

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jeff Hunt, Chuck Vandenberg and Linda Smith

**Approval of Minutes:**

Gaudette MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- A. ALL CHURCH BAZAAR IN OLD SETTLERS PARK:** October 21, 2017, Linda Smith asked permission to hold this for any church in Fort Madison to set up a table. They are able to sell any kind of items they would like. So far, 7 churches have committed to having a table. It will take place from 10am to 2pm. Gaudette asked if the proceeds that the individual churches raise go toward that church. Smith said it did. Johnson asked if they would need any tables or garbage cans and Smith said that they would not need any because each church would supply their own tables. Decker stated that they may sell hotdogs and food items.

Decker MOVED and Gaudette SECONDED a motion to approve the ALL CHURCH BAZAAR IN OLD SETTLERS PARK. MOTION CARRIED.

- B. PERMISSION TO USE PICTURES OF CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND AND OLD SETTLERS PARK BANDSTAND FOR PUBLICATIONS:** Jean Peiton was not in attendance; therefore, Luna explained that Anthony Franklin, who will be doing some marketing for the City, would like to use pictures of the bandstands for marketing products. Luna stated that the Historic District will also be approaching the Board to ask permission to use a picture of one or the other bandstands for metal plaques they are going to be selling to historic homes.

Gaudette MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to approve the USING PICTURES OF CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND AND OLD SETTLERS PARK BANDSTAND FOR PUBLICATIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

**C. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A MONTHLY RATE FOR THE RV**

**PARK:** Luna shared that a lady is going to be moving to Fort Madison in April and wondered if there is a monthly fee for the RV park because her house will not be ready for a couple of months after she comes here. The current fee is \$20.00 per night. The Board would like information on other RV parks; such as, if they have a monthly rate and if so, how much it is and if a person is only able to stay a certain amount of time. Luna state that this can be tabled until the next meeting.

Decker MOVED and Hall SECONDED a motion to table until next month's meeting  
A MONTHLY RATE FO RTHE RV PARK. MOTION CARRIED.

**Approved Reoccurring Events:**

Parks, Recreation and Docks Board voted, and approved, to grant Luna and Helling permission to approve reoccurring events that have been held 3 years or more in a row.

- A. **MAYHEM ON THE MISSISSIPPI IN RODEO PARK:** May 13, 2017, Helling shared this is normally held in Riverview Park but due to 2 weddings taking place in the park that weekend, it was not possible; therefore, they moved to Rodeo Park.

Hall MOVED and Gaudette SECONDED a motion to approve MAYHEM ON THE MISSISSIPPI IN RODEO PARK. MOTION CARRIED. Helling shared that reoccurring items such as this does not need to be voted on but is shared with the Board so they are aware of them.

- B. **BARLEY HOP AT RIVERVIEW PAVILION:** May 19, 2017, Helling shared this is not considered a reoccurring event yet because last year was the first year it was held. This item will be on the next agenda.

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

- A. Pieper: (PORT): Absent
- B. Johnson: (Sports Complex/Rodeo): Rodeo – Entertainment has been booked: Sports Complex – Outdoor volleyball courts are finished. New lights have been installed. High school and middle school tournaments have been booked. Gaudette asked if they are going to have concerts like they did last year. Johnson said she is sure they are.
- C. Decker: (Old Settlers Association): Nothing to report.
- D. Hall: (RiverFest): Nothing to report.
- E. Gaudette: (Public pool): Nothing to report.

**Director's Report:**

Luna shared that Molly Butler asked him about setting up her food truck in Riverview Park during the Cabela's King Kat Catfish Tournament in August. He told her that if it was okay with the company then that would be fine. Helling contacted the representative and he said that would be fine; therefore, Luna told Molly she was able to. He informed the Board that the ISP John Bennet Unit is now close; therefore, the City no longer is able to utilize inmate labor for parks maintenance. Private mowing companies have been contacted to see if they would each take on a park. Luna has also been in

contact with the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility about utilizing inmates from there but he is not sure if it is going to work. The City only has 2 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. Johnson asked if there was any kind of budget for things like this. Luna said there wasn't. He said there is a big difference between paying an inmate \$.50 per hour and a laborer \$9.00 per hour. An option is to ask different organizations if they would volunteer time and help. The main focus is the cemeteries especially with Memorial Day being 2 months away. He will keep the Board informed of any changes.

The locomotive in Riverview Park may be on the list of historical places. If this happens then a grant can be obtained for repairs. There is some damage from the floods and possibility of moving it by the depot.

The bridge in Rodeo Park is finished but Mike Huffman said the smaller bridge is in worse condition than the bigger one was. There is enough Quality of Life bond money left to fix this bridge also. It should be done in 3 weeks.

A person called about initially having a wedding by the soccer field in Rodeo Park but then called back and asked about having it at the end of Scenic Drive. Luna did not feel this was a good idea because it is out of the line of sight. He has talked to Police Chief Sittig and he agreed also. Luna brought it to the Boards attention in case they decided to go before the Board for permission.

Hall shared that her son and his friends like to go to the tennis court at Victory Park to practice soccer in the evenings because the light is on longer and they can use the wooden board to bounce the ball against. A police officer stopped and told them they could not play in there. She said they were wearing regular tennis shoes and not causing any problems or damage. Luna stated that there have been complaints in the past about people using the tennis courts for things other than tennis or pickle ball so there has basically been a rule only tennis and pickle ball can be played on the courts. Councilman Wright asked if there are any lights in the "green space" at Victory Park. Luna said there wasn't. Hall asked if this could be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Hall MOVED and Gaudette SECONDED a motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28PM.

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Tara Johnson, Chairperson