

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MADISON PARKS, RECREATION & DOCK BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5:00PM**  
**FORT MADISON, IOWA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Decker, Mary Ann Gaudette, Sue Pieper, Mike Pulis and Paul Wilkerson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jesus Garcia and Trish Hall

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** John Luna, Dawn Helling, City Manager David Varley, Council Liaison Brian Wright

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Annie Meyer, Calvin Meyer and Jack Carter

**Approval of Minutes:**

Pulis MOVED and Gaudette SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2017 meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**Public Comments:**

Jack Carter, Marina slip renter, shared that he has been a slip renter for 30 years. This year the water spigots have not been working and he wondered what it would take to fix this. Luna answered that it is a problem that will need to be addressed next summer mooring season. The water line will need to be dug up and worked on. Carter stated each year slip prices are raised yet the slips are in bad shape. There are also boats parked in slips on BB & CC Docks that are too long for the slips. They stick out about 3 feet past the docks. Helling stated that she is the person who rents out the slips and the person is required to submit a copy of their boat registration along with a completed slip rental agreement. She makes sure the size of the boat on the registration coincides with the size on the agreement and she will only rent a slip that is of the size the boat or is a foot or less longer but not 3 feet longer. If there are boats parked in slips that are sticking out that much then they are either in the wrong slip or illegally parked. She will check on it and talk to Randy Boe, Parks Supervisor. Carter shared that when Melinda Blind was in the same position she was at the marina everyday checking on things. Helling shared that Blind didn't have 2 departments she worked for so she had more time to do so. It was shared that Blind did not go down there every day. Councilman Wright stated there needs to be a fine for those illegally parked in slips. Luna shared there are signs about it up at the marina.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- A. PORT COMMITTEE TO INSTALL BENCHES ALONG PORT TRAIL:** Sue Pieper shared that there have been a couple of people who have donated money for benches to place along the trail. City Manager Varley shared Larry's Driscoll's concern is that anything that goes along the trail will have to be maintained by the City. Pieper shared the Committee has looked into that and the benches they want to purchase are no maintenance and will cost \$1,200. Decker said there is nothing wrong with it as long as they are maintenance free.

Gaudette MOVED and Pulis SECONDED a motion to approve PORT COMMITTEE TO INSTALL BENCHES ALONG PORT TRAIL. MOTION CARRIED.

**B. DAN MEYER MEMORIAL CATFISH FISHING TOURNAMENT AT RIVERVIEW PARK:**

March 24, 2018, Calvin and Annie Meyer shared they would like to hold a catfish fishing tournament in memory of Calvin's brother who was an avid fisherman and lived in Fort Madison. March 25<sup>th</sup> will be the rain date. Tournament will be from 6am-2pm and dinner will be from 2pm-5pm. Entry fee is \$40 with 100% payback. Each team will consist of 2-3 people and they already have 39 teams registered. They are expecting 50 teams. There will be a donation dinner after with a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go to their nephew, Dan's son. They have contacted IDNR for the permit and the insurance company for liability insurance. There are 2 sponsors but are looking for more. Luna asked if they are planning on having weigh in at the marina shelter. Annie said they are going to weigh in the parking lot as the boats come in. They will use the Riverview Park Shelter for the dinner event.

Wilkerson MOVED and Pieper SECONDED a motion to approve DAN MEYER MEMORIAL CATFISH FISHING TOURNAMENT AT RIVERVIEW PARK. MOTION CARRIED.

**C. MEET AND GREET FOR CHRIS SORRENTINO, MAYORAL CANDIDATE AT**

**RIVERVIEW PARK SHELTER:** October 21, 2017, Roberta McGhghy, did not attend meeting.

Pieper stated she thought it was approved at a previous meeting that when a group has a 5k at Rodeo Park the paint is supposed to be wash away. There is paint on the walking trail that is still on there. Luna said this is correct but there may not have been any rain since the last event to wash it away.

**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. FORT MADISON PARADE OF LIGHTS:** November 24, 2017

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

- A. Pieper: (PORT):** Shared phase 2 of the trail project has been paved but is not complete, phase 1 is complete with fencing but now needs benches installed. Trees that were planted are doing well. October 21, 2017 is the annual Boo-Athlon at Baxter's Sports Complex. Both phases of the trail will be used. Still applying for grants to finish project. Councilman Wright shared the middle school uses the trail and loved it. Pieper stated that next will be planning phase 3.
- B. Decker: (Old Settlers Association):** Shared trick-or-treat in Old Settlers Park will take place again this year. 20 families have committed to having a table so far and there may be more. There is a sponsor this year who is paying for the hot dogs, chips and drinks. There is a concern about kids crossing streets there. Pieper asked how many tables were there last year. Decker stated there were 26. Pulis asked how it operated since he was not here last year. Decker shared there are tables lined up along the sidewalks then end at the shelter house where each person gets a hot dog, chips and drink. 2 Rose of Sharon bushes have been planted by the benches. 2 more trees were taken down. Good year for concerts and have scheduled concerts for next year. Dodie Jerome's memorial money has purchased new trees. Councilman Wright shared that some of the people who grew up in that area and played there are looking at having a reunion at the park.
- C. Hall: (RiverFest):** Hall was absent. Luna shared that is was successful again this year and Craft is looking at 2 headliners instead of 1 for next year.
- D. Gaudette: (Public pool):** Good season except a difficult patron. Councilman Wright stated the person Gaudette is referring to talked to him and stated his complaints, such as the lap lanes are

too close together, the walkers get in the way, etc. Gaudette shared there are days there are 10-20 walkers in the pool and not all like walking in the deep end. Most like the shallow. Pieper feels it needs to be defined when the rope should be moved. Gaudette stated that a lot of the complaints from the patron are not legitimate. Pieper feels that before next year it should be established that if there are more than 3 swimmers then the lanes should be wider; therefore, the rope moved to accommodate this. Gaudette stated that the issue of the lanes is easily solved but there is still an issue with using paddles. Councilman Wright said the patron feels there was a problem with the lifeguards and their personalities and that most are only high schoolers. Both Gaudette and Pieper stated the patron is the problem. They shared that everyone who goes there daily will do what needs to be done to make it enjoyable except this person. He told someone that since it was the first year they were there for lap/adult swim that they had no rights. Gaudette feels there needs to be rules created before next year. It is to be on the February 7, 2018 agenda and Sara Mueller, Aquatics Director, should be at the meeting. One of the rules should be if there are more than 3 lap swimmers than no paddles are allowed. If policies are established then Mueller doesn't have to make decisions on this topic.

Pieper asked if someone could be a liaison to Rodeo since Tara Johnson is not on the committee and she wondered how the ballfields were after the horses were there. Luna stated that they were cleaned up good and looked like before. He is going to contact Johnson and ask if she could come to meetings to give Rodeo reports.

#### **Director's Report:**

Marina is now closed for the season. Kuhlmeier Fountain is closed but will be filled for ice skating. Has been contacted by the family who would like a sign put up. In the process of getting prices. Pieper asked about the marina. She has talked to Barb and she said she brings her own snacks to sell and wondered if there was a better way to do this. Luna stated there used to be vending machines down there but it didn't pay for itself and was not used much. She asked if there were more boaters when there was a restaurant and it was answered yes. Carter stated there used to be a travel book that had the marina down as 5 stars now it doesn't get any stars. Pieper knew the marina in Fort Madison is City owned but wondered if Burlington and Keokuk's are. It was stated that they are not. Carter said if a private person owned it they can raise prices.

Gaudette MOVED and Pieper SECONDED a motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

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Jim Decker, Chairperson