

MINUTES
FORT MADISON PARKS, RECREATION & DOCK BOARD
REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5:00PM
FORT MADISON, IOWA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Johnson, Mike Pulis, Jim Decker, Sheila Garcia, Bobby Holtkamp, Lauri Wondra, Council Liaison Brian Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesus Garcia

CITY STAFF PRESENT: John Luna, Dawn Helling

GUEST PRESENT: Tim Gobble, Dodie Jerome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Wondra MOVED and Holtkamp SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2013 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments:

None

Old Business:

City Manager, Byron Smith, was to share about the bond issue for park improvements. He was not able to attend but will share at a future meeting.

New Business:

- A. DOCKING FOR THE AMERICAN QUEEN:** October 24, 2013, Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners, shared last week there was a preliminary docking near the Catfish Bend Casino boat and it was very shallow. Gobble and Captain John (the boat's captain) are looking for alternative sites to dock. Hall's dock is an option because there is room for the tour buses to maneuver. Willow Patch was suggested but would need to be dredged soon. Gobble shared the buses would take people from the boat on tours of Victorian houses, Rodeo Arena and Rodeo Museum, Sheaffer Museum, historical museum and Old Fort. The tours will take place from 8 AM to 1 PM. Tour guides will come with the buses. Councilman Wright asked where the boat would be coming from. Gobble stated it was coming from New Orleans and heading to St. Paul, MN. Councilman Wright asked when the last time it came to Fort Madison. Gobble answered it was 2003.

Decker MOVED and Pulis SECONDED to approve docking of the American Queen at the Fort Madison River Front on October 24, 2013. MOTION CARRIED.

- B. STATUE IN OLD SETTLERS PARK:** Dodie Jerome shared her and her husband are one of the original couples who started Old Settlers Association and they have lived by the park for many years. Her husband, Bill, passed away recently and she wanted to do something to honor him. She had seen statues in parks and decided she would like to have one in Old Settlers in his memory. She requested donations in lieu of flowers, and the memorials received, would go toward the statue. The bronze statue is 51” tall and is a child with a football uniform on. Holtkamp asked where in the park she would like it. Jerome shared there are 3 options. Corner of 4th Street and Avenue E, by the baseball field and where 3 trees meet. Luna asked who would replace the statue if it is vandalized because the City will not be responsible. Jerome understood and if it was damaged beyond repair it would not be replaced, but that was a risk she was willing to take. Johnson asked how much it weighed but Jerome didn’t know. Councilman Wright felt the corner of 4th Street and Avenue E would be nice because it is the corner she tends. Decker stated if she wanted it with the memorial garden it would have to be put behind it. Jerome said the memorial garden would hide it. Luna shared it is a special idea but others will want to start doing the same and it could cause a problem. Councilman Wright suggested putting the statue at one of the football field entrances since he was a football coach and teacher there. Jerome wants it in the park because she spends a lot of time there and it is near her home. Councilman Wright suggested just getting a small stone but Wondra informed him the statue has already been ordered. Holtkamp liked the idea but thought the statue should honor all of the original members not just one person.

Holtkamp MOVED to allow the statue in Old Settlers Park pending an agreeable location and approval by the City Council; also, it would have to be in honor of all of the original members of the Old Settlers Association with the statue donated by the Jerome Family. Motion failed due to lack of SECOND.

- C. IOWA HIGH SCHOOL RODEO IN RODEO ARENA:** September 21-22, 2013, Luna shared this is an annual event and the lease will be September 19-24, 2013.

Wondra MOVED and Holtkamp SECONDED a motion to approve Iowa High School Rodeo in Rodeo Arena on September 21-22, 2013
MOTION CARRIED.

- D. FORT MADISON CROSS COUNTRY MEET IN RODEO PARK:** September 19, 2013, Luna shared this is an annual event in Rodeo Park. There have never been any problems in the past. He wished the new activities director for the high school could have made it to the meeting so everyone could meet him.

Holtkamp MOVED and Garcia SECONDED to approve Fort Madison Cross Country Meet in Rodeo Park on September 19, 2013. MOTION CARRIED.

- E. LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION MOVIES IN CENTRAL PARK:** May 23-September 19, 2014, Luna shared this is an annual event which is getting bigger every year. He will send an email to the board members with a list of the movies that will be shown.

Decker MOVED and Wondra SECONDED to approve Lights, Camera, Action Movies in Central Park from May 23-September 19, 2014. MOTION CARRIED.

F. **FEE OPTION FOR RIVERVIEW PAVILION:** Helling shared the current fees are: Monday-Thursday \$100.00 with a \$100.00 deposit; and Friday-Sunday \$200.00 with a \$200.00 deposit. The patrons cannot go in the day before to set up because it has caused problems in the past allowing this. She suggested another option for weekends. The patron can rent the pavilion from noon on Friday to noon on Sunday for a fee of \$400.00 with a \$200.00 deposit. Johnson suggested all day Friday through noon on Sunday.

Decker MOVED and Holtkamp SECONDED to approve a rental option for Riverview Pavilion of all day Friday through 12:00 PM on Sunday for a rate of \$400.00 with a \$200.00 deposit. MOTION CARRIED.

Directors Report: Luna shared Shane Smith is interested in renting a boat slip at the marina but would like to put a boat lift in. He has requested this in the past but was denied due to liability and damage it could do to the dock. Johnson feels if it is allowed there will be quite a few people wanting to use the docks. Wondra stated if it is inflatable it would be like a bumper. Holtkamp suggested having an extra fee for the slip, in case of damage, if the person wants to use a lift. Helling will ask other marinas if they allow lifts.

Paul and Judy Schulte want to buy basketball hoops and have them installed in Shopton Park. The funds would go through the Paul and Judy Schulte Foundation. The cost for this is \$8,000.00 which includes all work and installation. Wondra asked if the police would patrol there more often when they are installed. Luna has talked to City Manager Byron Smith about installing surveillance cameras.

At the last meeting Luna shared the Catfish Bend Casino boat had been sold and was going to be scrapped. The gentleman cannot get insurance to scrap it so it will just remain where it is for now.

The Fort Madison Rotary Club would like to use the Riverview Pavilion on Tuesdays for their meeting. They would be required to pay a \$100.00 deposit, which would be kept on file and a \$100.00 fee each month. The parks board approved unanimously.

Holtkamp MOVED and Garcia SECONDED a motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Tara Johnson, Chairperson