

MINUTES
FORT MADISON PARKS, RECREATION & DOCK BOARD
REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5:00PM
FORT MADISON, IOWA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Chapman, Tara Johnson, Mary Ann Gaudette, Jim Decker, Bobby Holtkamp and Lauri Wondra

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesus Garcia

CITY STAFF PRESENT: John Luna, Dawn Helling, Councilman At-Large Rusty Andrews, Mayor Brad Randolph

GUESTS PRESENT: Pat Helling, Terry Hoenig, Jack Carter, Jim Noll, Tim Gobble

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Holtkamp MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments:

None

Old Business:

- A. RESCIND NO LONGER ACCEPTING CHECKS:** Luna shared it has caused a problem with accounting and there have been quite a few complaints from residents who have rented shelters numerous times. Chapman asked if the deposit checks could be cashed right away and the cash put with the agreement. Luna responded he talked to the bank and they did not like that.

Holtkamp MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to RESCIND NOT ACCEPTING CHECKS FOR SHELTER RENTALS. MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

- A. ICE BOWL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT IN RODEO PARK:** February 7, 2015, Luna shared this is a reoccurring event and there have not been any problems. This is a fundraiser to obtain can goods and donations for the food pantry.

Decker MOVED and Chapman SECONDED a motion to approve ICE BOWL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT IN RODEO PARK. MOTION CARRIED

- B. LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION 2015 MOVES IN CENTRAL PARK:** May 22, 2015-September 7, 2015, Luna shared this is a reoccurring event which takes place on Friday nights from 6pm-11pm and there have never been any problems

Gaudette MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to approve LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION 2015 MOVIES IN CENTRAL PARK. MOTION CARRIED.

C. SHARE 2015 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SHOPTON ENCLOSED SHELTER:

Wondra shared this is a co-op that takes place one Saturday morning a month and is a reoccurring event.

Holtkamp MOVED and Gaudette SECONDED a motion to approve SHARE 2015 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SHOPTON ENCLOSED SHELTER. MOTION CARRIED.

D. NLCHS & SANTA FE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S-TRAIN TRACKS AND MINI MEET AT RIVERVIEW PARK PAVILION:

April 16-19, 2015, Jean Peiton, this event was moved to next month due to Jean Peiton not in attendance.

E. ADD \$5.00 PENALTY FOR NOT REGISTERING AT CAMPGROUND:

Helling shared there has been some problems with campers not registering at the time they set up and she had seen there are other similar campgrounds who charge the penalty for not registering when they set up. Chapman asked if there is anyone who checks to see if people are registered and patrols the campground and how people register. Luna shared the parks department employees take care of that and there is a self-check in box.

Chapman MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to approve ADD \$5.00 PENALTY FOR NOT REGISTERING AT CAMPGROUND. MOTION CARRIED.

F. MARINA IMPROVEMENTS AND DREDGING UPDATE:

Luna shared the slips have been removed and getting ready to dredge. The City was not able to coordinate with Newton Marine to dredge until spring. He then gave information on expenditures and revenues for the marina. He shared slip rental fees do not generate enough revenue to make improvements; therefore, the City will have to take out a \$248,000.00 loan to cover the costs. He suggested the slip fees be raised 16%. He also recommended that there be a change in what is considered a "resident". Right now anyone in Lee County is considered a resident but he would like to have that changed to only those who reside in Fort Madison city limits. Chapman asked how the fees compare to Burlington and Keokuk. He was informed they cannot be compared because they own their slips. Wondra asked if that amount will be enough to cover maintenance costs also. Holtkamp wanted to listen to what Mayor Randolph and Tim Gobble shared first. Mayor Randolph stated he and Tim Gobble were there to share about possibly making Riverview Park a destination spot. Their proposal is to make permanent improvements and is long term. He shared there are numerous grants that can be obtained namely a CAT grant. A CAT grant will cover 20%. Mayor Randolph shared the parks board can either start a non-profit for the marina or the parks board can keep control. It was stated the marina will not be ran the same this year as last. It will be maintained and will sell items boaters need. Johnson asked Mayor Randolph if he has a recommendation. He responded a non-profit is the easiest way to get funding. Holtkamp shared the parks board should have a sub-committee. Decker shared everyone wants a beautiful harbor but it will cost money. Once dredging and improvements on slips are completed that should make a difference. Chapman asked if the two items; slip fee increase and resident in City limits can be voted on separately. He was informed they can. Chapman asked if any of the Quality of Life Bond can be used toward the marina. Mayor Randolph responded the parks board can present this idea to the City Council. Chapman then asked if the marina is considered part of Riverview Park and Mayor Randolph responded it is. Holtkamp shared he disagrees with the motion made to consider residents as only those who reside in City limits. He feels Lee County is all part

of a community. Jim Noll, slip renter, feels there is a lack of communication between all who are involved. It needs to be a team effort. If slip fees increase and obtaining grants make the improvements possible, then they need to be done. He shared that people come from all over to use the marina, therefore, the slip renters should not be the only ones paying. It was asked how much it will be to have a full-time worker at the marina during summer mooring. Luna shared it will be \$16,000.00. Terry Hoenig, slip renter, feels the marina needs to be marketed more than it is. Jack Carter, slip renter, asked if slips are not ready by April 1 if rates will be prorated. Mayor Randolph stated if the slips are not ready by April 1 the fees will be prorated or the City will do what they can to make it fair but are asking for cooperation from the slip renters. It was asked what kind of amenities will be sold at the marina. Luna shared ice, pop, water, snacks, boating supplies, etc. no alcohol. Wondra stated before she can make a decision on raising slip fees she would like to know how much will be spent on maintenance and how much revenue there will be if 75% of the slips are rented. Luna shared that the loan payments, supplies, employee salary, etc. need to be taken into consideration.

Chapman MOVED to approve CHANGING RESIDENTS FROM LEE COUNTY TO THOSE WHO RESIDE IN CITY LIMITS ONLY. Motion died due to lack of second.

G. SLIP RENTAL FEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: (See above notes on discussion). Luna suggested and it was agreed upon to table this item.

H. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF MARINA AND POSSIBLE GRANT FUNDING: Mayor Brad Randolph and Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners shared an initial design for Riverview Park was obtained in 2008 and the proposed budget then was \$5,000,000.00 it will be quite a bit more now. They are interested in knowing what role the parks board would like to play this. Would they like to have a non-profit started or does the parks board want to deal with it. Chairperson Johnson shared the board wants to go forward with improving Riverview Park but they are not sure where to go. Gobble shared it will be next year before the CAT grant can be obtained but there are numerous other grants but it depends if they want to include all of Riverview Park or just the marina. Wondra stated she would love to see Riverview Park beautified but her concern is how often it floods. Mayor Randolph stated it can be looked into how to make it the best it can be and tolerable to flooding. He would like the parks board to discuss what direction they want Riverview Park to go. If parks board can generate ideas then costs can start being found. The one thing about grants is they can put stipulations; for example, the grant for the marina parking lot states it cannot be changed or the grant has to be paid back. Gobble shared it can also be done in phases. Pat Helling, slip renter, feels there should be a marina commission to help with this project. He asked if there has ever been an estimate as to how much it would be to move the wall. Noll share the bottom of the river is coming up, due to silt, 6” per year and is at 46% capacity. By 2025 it will be at 80% capacity. If the wall is not built up soon it will cost more later.

Directors Report:

None

Wondra MOVED and Decker SECONDED a motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED and the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Tara Johnson, Chairperson