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**DATE: August 20, 2019**

Park Board Activity

- **Faulkes Heritage Woods:** The owner of 22 acres of natural land adjacent to Faulkes Woods is interested in selling. The board authorized staff to work with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to research funding sources and the possibility of future acquisition.
- **Stump Cutter Purchase:** Three bids were reviewed for a budgeted stump cutting unit for the Forestry division.
  - Vermeer of Eastern Iowa, \$22,400, for a 2019 Vermeer SC 382
  - Midwest Underground, \$22,500, for a 2018 Rayco RG37
  - JP Scherman Inc, \$20,570, for a 2019 Bandit 2250 (bid did not meet specs)The board approved purchasing the Vermeer unit which met all requested specifications.
- **Lininger Park Pavilion Kit:** Bids were reviewed for a 20' by 20' pavilion kit for Lininger.
  - Boland Recreation \$13,942
  - All Inclusive Recreation \$17,725
  - AB Creative \$19,448
  - Outdoor Recreation \$21,600The low bid from Boland Recreation was approved. The kit will be installed by Parks staff.



Department Activity

- **Fireworks & Fireflies:** Recreation staff assisted with the city's first Fireworks and Fireflies event at Lowe Park with everything from set-up to clean-up. The aerial photo above was taken in the early evening. It was estimated that over 5,000 people gathered at the amphitheater, the Lowe Park south parking lots, Oak Ridge Middle School, Echo Hill Elementary, and along the streets to view the fireworks. Attendance and spectators well exceeded staff expectations, and reviews were all positive.
- **Lowe Park South Improvements:** Operations staff have worked to get seeding completed, and selected areas laid with sod. Additional flowerbeds will be added once the weather is conducive for plant survival. The restroom facility is the last component to be completed for the project. When a completion date is determined, a ribbon cutting event will be held to open the area to the public.
- **Lowe Park Maintenance Addition:** Septagon Construction, the general contractor for the building addition, has been working to get the footings in place and framing completed. The project calendar places the completion of the building towards the end of September. Park staff started working on the road extension which will give access to the future maintenance building.



- **City Hall Pedestrian Counter:** Operations staff along with Public Services staff installed pedestrian and bike counters in front of City Hall to develop base data for future traffic from the Grant Wood Trail extension through the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. (Photo left; Broc Dabling and Craig Zachman)

- **Request for Proposals:** A request for proposal was sent out for a recreation software package. The software will allow the department to be more efficient in recreation management including program management, registration, shelter reservations, and facility management. The goal is to have the software go live by January 1, 2020.

A request for proposal was issued August 5 and due August 30 for Gill Park, and the 29<sup>th</sup>Ave/50<sup>th</sup> Street Park Plan. The scope of work included public input sessions, a concept plan for two neighborhood parks, estimated construction costs, and presentations at public meetings. The plan will be used as a visionary tool and guide for budget planning within the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

A request for proposal was sent out on July 26<sup>th</sup> for a new 20' by 20' steel pavilion kit to be constructed in Lininger Park. This park improvement project is scheduled for fall 2019 and will be completed with facility operations staff.

- **Hanna Park Fitness Trail:** The future trail for Phase II of the Hanna Park Fitness Trail was laid out along with the equipment pod areas. Installation for the pods will take place in August and the asphalt trail will be completed with the help of the Public Services' asphalt crew.
- **General Park Maintenance:** Routine maintenance continues with mowing and trimming. As grass growing slowed, the mowing crew started staining split-rail fence, baseball dugouts, and other recreation amenities. Right-of-way maintenance continues and will be a focus in the upcoming months.
- **Staff Development:** The parks & recreation staff were provided a lunch and learn opportunity with the City Manager's office staff. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn discussed the responsibilities and functions of his department and presented current and upcoming city-wide initiatives.
- **Staff Departures:** Lowe Park Art & Environment Center Administrative Assistant MaryAnn Bries formally submitted a letter of resignation. Her last day with the department will be August 6.
- **Citizen Requests Tall Grass/Weeds:** Weed complaints tapered off at the end of the month. There were 24 new cases opened during July, of which 18 were mailed certified letters for tall grass. By the end of the month, 21 cases were closed, and the department mowed two properties. The remaining cases are still pending rechecks or mowing by the department.
- **Oak Shade Cemetery:** There were three burials and two spaces sold last month.
- **Forestry Operations:** Prairie mowing was completed at Waldo's Rock Park to reduce Canada Thistle growth. Signage was installed at Faulkes Heritage Woods along the boundary points marked during the survey to complete the project.

EAB injections were completed on 71 park trees and 40 right-of-way trees. Arborist Tech I Klein Walker obtained his pesticide applicator license earlier this year and trained on the equipment. (photo right)



A policy draft of a City loan program for private tree removal was developed and is under review. This would create an additional option for homeowners who have an immediate need to remove a private tree which has suddenly become a hazard.

Staff are working to change over to the City GIS software to continue updating tree inventory and collecting data

- **Forestry Equipment:** An equipment specification was developed for a stump cutting unit and bids were received. Approval for purchase will be on the August Park Board agenda.

Brush hog shaft repairs were completed. The Terex XT Pro 56 bucket truck was serviced and passed the annual and dielectric certifications.

- **Tree Grants:** Funding from Collins Aerospace Green Communities grant application to plant right-of-way trees along Battle Creek Drive was denied.



- **Tree Care:** Staff made watering tree planting projects a priority due to hotter than average temps and very little precipitation during July. (photo left)

Local wildlife has chosen some of Marion's newest right-of-way trees as a suitable home. (photo right)

Forestry staff attended a variety of tree concerns related to storm damage and continued Ash removals in the second Emerald Ash Borer confirmation area.



- **Citizen Requests Tree Issues:** There were 5 citizen requests in July regarding private trees and 21 new cases regarding right-of-way trees. Four private tree cases and two right-of-way tree cases were closed during the month.

- **Municipal Swimming Pool:** The final session of swimming lessons began July 22. A total of 797 swimmers completed the program this year. Numbers have decreased over the last couple of years



for a couple reasons; Kids Inc Childcare is no longer bringing 100-plus kids, the Linn-Mar P.E. program is offering lessons during the school year, and the Linn-Mar Aquatic Facility offers lessons. (photo left)

The pool hosted two special events in July; "Marion Pool Goes Hawaiian" and "Superhero Night" with a

little over 50 in attendance for both nights. (phot right)

Pool rentals continue to be popular with over 22 booked for this summer.

The pool inspection for 2019 resulted in no violations.

- **Story/Tot Time:** July 25 was the final story/tot time at Lowe Park and July 23 was the final story time at Thomas Park. This joint program with the Library was well attended during the summer months when weather cooperated.
- **Moonlit Movie:** Due to the extreme heat, the moonlit movie scheduled for July 19 was postponed and rescheduled to August 16. Free kids' inflatables will begin at 7 p.m. with the feature presentation, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" being shown at dusk.



- **Youth Recreation Programs:** PeeWee Baseball and Softball



concluded with a pool party on July 13. Most of the kids had their last game of the season at the new Prospect Meadows fields on Hwy 13 and County Home Road. (photos left and right)



Happy Feet Soccer wrapped up with 52 kids ages 3 to 4 participating in the summer soccer skills camp at Butterfield Park.

Lil' Pigskins Football wrapped up with 42 kids completing the program at Butterfield Park which introduced them to basic football skills and terminology.

The Youth Tennis program, in partnership with Westfield Tennis Club, had 38 kids ranging in age 5 to 16 participate in Session 2. Lessons are conducted at the Marion High School tennis courts.

- **B-I-N-G-O:** Summer B-I-N-G-O Night at Lowe Park was held July 26 with a near capacity crowd of a 125 people for this special summer edition of bingo.
- **Dueling Pianos:** The popular Dueling Pianos concert was held for the fourth consecutive summer on July 13. A trio of pianists entertained and engaged the estimated 2,200 people attending the free three-hour event on a steamy July Saturday night at Lowe Park.
- **Summer Camp:** ISU Extension day camps continued in July at Thomas and Lowe Park. There were 74 kids participating across the four camps.
  - **Expand My World: Passport to Adventure (K-2nd), Tuesday, July 9**
  - **Expand My World: Global Trek (3rd-5th), Tuesday, July 16**
  - **STEAM Lab: Makerspace Mania (K-2nd), Monday, July 22**
  - **STEAM Lab: Master Makers (3rd-5th), Wednesday, July 31**

Magic Camp 101 was held at Lowe Park with local magician, Tim Stolba, leading and inspiring the kids. Each kid left with their own magic kit to continue crafting their skills. Ten kids, ranging in ages from 8 to 13 participated.

- **Amphitheater Free Concert:** The Johnny Rogers Show rocked the amphitheater stage August 3. The band first played a 90-minute set featuring old-fashioned, country music from some of the biggest names. They followed up with an electric 90-minute set of classic rock-n-roll dating back to the 50's and then working through the decades with some of the most iconic rock-n-roll songs of all time. Staff has received rave reviews about the show.
- **Free Community Fitness:** Sunrise Yoga and Pound in the Park, two of our free community fitness programs, continue to go strong in 2019. Sunrise Yoga surpassed the 900-participant mark before August. Pound in the Park continues to average 30 to 40 people each week.
- **Arts Council:** Details for the August 17 Picnic on the Prairie, with The Dandelion Stompers from Iowa City are being finalized. The group performs a New Orleans style of jazz.

Gordon Kellenberger will lead a Plein Air Workshop on August 17. Attendees are able to select from a variety of medium to work with.

The Gallery's exhibit titled The Many Faces of Iowa Art Quilters from the Iowa Art Quilters group which support textile artists. The quilts will be on display through August. The School Exhibit for the summer is from Goodwill Heartland clients.

The spring Picnic on the Prairie concert with Lucy Kaplansky on June 15 was moved inside the A&E building due to rain. Around 80 people enjoyed the free performance.

**SAFE ROOM & ARTS CENTER USAGE – JULY**

Events with alcohol permits: 9

AV Equipment Rentals: 1

Some reservations use more than one room.

Room	Paid	Free
Safe Room	5	3
Amphitheater	2	11
Art Room	0	5
Gallery/Lobby	0	2
Sunburst	5	15
Hickory	15	10
White Oak	0	0
Red Oak	3	2
Red & White Oak	6	13
Entire Facility	2	3
Outdoor (Pond) / Greenhouse	0	0
<b>2019 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2018 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>49</b>

Activity Type	Monthly Usage	Number of Attendees*
Gallery Open / Arts Council Activities	3	33
Seniors Bingo / Dance / Cards	24	429
Parks / Recreation	11	2,397
Meetings / Work / School / Church	9	398
Blood Drive	1	31
Family Gatherings / Showers	17	810
Rehearsal/Wedding/Reception	4	480
Encore Meals	8	273
Graduation		
Fireworks & Fireflies	1	5,000
Sunrise Yoga & Pound in the Park	6	482
Library Story Time	3	52
<b>2019 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>10,385</b>
<b>2018 MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9,995</b>

\*ISU Extension Camps and Art Gallery visitors not reflected.

**PAVILION RESERVATIONS – JULY**

Pavilion	Free	Paid	TOTAL	Attendance*
English – Thomas Park	5	14	19	850
Begley #1 – Thomas Park	0	10	10	350
Begley #2 – Thomas Park	0	9	9	380
Hanna Park	1	4	5	265
Depot - City Park	9	2	11	50

Taube Park	4	4	8	75
Uptown Artway	4	0	4	611
<b>2019 TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2,581</b>
<b>2018 Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3,320</b>

Does not include attendees to: Farmers Market (Taube Park every Saturday), Library Children's Programs (5 @ Depot, 1 @ English), Marion Community Band (Depot), Marion Big Band (3 @ Depot), and Uptown Marion Market (Depot).

The Marion Arts Council presents  
**PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE**  
A summer music concert at the Klopfenstein Amphitheater for the Performing Arts.

**Dandelion Stompers**

August 17 @ Lowe Park Amphitheater



This community gardener went from Noah to Farmer Brown.



**ART EXHIBIT AT THE LOWE CENTER GALLERY**  
June 29, 2019 through August 31, 2019  
**The Many Faces of Iowa Art Quilters**  
SELF-PORTRAITS AND OTHER ART QUILTS

The Iowa Art Quilters group exists to support textile artists interested in studio art quilts rather than traditional genres. In addition to fabric self-portraits, the displayed works show the interest of the art quilter in the natural and human world along with the abstract.

[iowaartquilters@gmail.com](mailto:iowaartquilters@gmail.com)

**ARTIST RECEPTION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**Thursday, July 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by:  

 Marion Arts Council  
 Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center  
 6300 16th Street Marion IA 52302  
 319.442.2390  
[www.cityofmarion.org/artsCouncil](http://www.cityofmarion.org/artsCouncil)  

 City of Marion  
**GALLERY HOURS**  
 M-F 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sat-Sun 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 FREE ADMISSION



2019 Pool Staff photo.

## MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES

July 10, 2019, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Kyle Martin, Patty Wise, John McIntosh  
ABSENT: Amy Hussel  
STAFF: Mike Carolan, Seth Staashelm, Karlene Hummel, Darcie Coberly  
GUESTS: Jay Moore, Jo Moore

### Minutes

Moved by Wise and seconded by McIntosh to approve the June 12, 2019, regular Park Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Reports

The June Financial Report was reviewed. Parks ended the fiscal year with revenues at 99 percent and expenditures at 88 percent of budget, and Urban Forestry revenues at 59 percent and expenditures at 60 percent of budget. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Wise to approve the June Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

The June Invoice Report was received, discussed and filed. The following payments were reviewed: Big Country Seed \$7,723.12 (ball diamond supplies and seeding for several projects), City Tractor \$2,175.72 (equipment replacement items), Continental Fire Sprinkler Co. \$598 (fire sprinkler repairs at Thomas Park), Custom Property Solutions \$3,435 (seven park benches for Lowe Park South End Development project), and Fleming Nursery \$7,600 (trees for planting projects and flower bed supplies).

### Public Input

Jo Moore invited the board to the Friends of the Parks' Appreciation Luncheon on July 16 at Lowe Park. Moore stated the next Friends' event will be on August 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Hanna Park and is called Happenings at Hanna Park.

### Board Member Applications

The City received three applications within the past six months with interest in joining the Park Board to fill the current vacancy. Jay Moore is still interested; Stephanie Schrader declined at this time; and Dale Monroe declined as he was recently appointed to another board. Another two applications were received this week, from Bryan Fiscus and Timothy Godsil. Moved by Wise and seconded by McIntosh to table further discussion of the applications to the August meeting. Wise asked the applicants to be invited to attend the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

### Marion YMCA CAT Grant Application

The YMCA is submitting a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant application for the Marion Facility project. Moved by Martin and seconded by Wise to provide a letter in support of the YMCA Marion Facility project for the CAT Grant application. All in favor, motion carried.

### Hanna Park Usage Request for Swamp Fox Bivouac

A request was received from Braydon Kriegel and Logan Frye of Scout Troop 35 to use Hanna Park for their Swamp Fox Bivouac and related events from September 27 to 29. Wise asked if this will be an official Swamp Fox Festival event; staff said they would find out. The troop's event would include other troops and activities such as flag history, cooking, orienteering, tent pitching, and overnight camping. Moved by McIntosh and seconded by Martin to approve the use of Hanna Park for Scout Troop 35's Swamp Fox Bivouac event from September 27 to 29. All in favor, motion carried.

### Moo Moo's Ice Cream Park Vending Request

A request was received from Moo Moo's Ice Cream, Sheila and Jason Happel, to vend ice cream products in various parks. They requested Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m. at Thomas Park, Lowe Park (10<sup>th</sup> Street side), Gill Park, and Donnelly Park. Carolan felt the products offered are different than Kona Ice and should not create a conflict. Moved by Wise and seconded by McIntosh to approve the request from Moo Moo's Ice Cream to vend ice cream products in Thomas Park and Gill Park on Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m. in 2019. Martin would like to make sure Kona Ice isn't impacted. All in favor, motion carried.

Receive and File

None.

Other Action or Discussion Items

None.

Staff Reports

The department staff report was presented. The Lowe Park South End Development project is getting close to putting together a punch list. The contract end date was June 28, so they are now incurring daily penalties until completion.

Operations staff rebuilt a retaining wall on the east side of the library building. The wall was unstable and created a potential hazard. The new wall is two tiered and will be stable for many years.

Work will be starting soon on the Lowe Park Maintenance Building Addition. The department has closed the service road; eventually a permanent hard surfaced trail will be installed going around the pond to create a loop through Lowe Park.

Carolann noted events held at the amphitheater have come a long way from its beginning. From family movie nights to musical performers, thousands of people from the community and all over the Midwest have visited the park.

Youth Tennis, Little Kickers Kickball, PeeWee Baseball, PeeWee Softball, and Blastball are all underway. Recreation staff continue to expand new programming opportunities for the community. PeeWee Baseball and Softball will be playing games tonight at the recently opened Prospect Meadows.

Activities at the pool have been going well and attendance has picked up with the hotter weather. Swim lessons will finish in July. The repair of the water leak has benefits in addition to less water needed to keep the pool filled; less chemicals are being used, as well as less effort to heat the water. The Police recently caught three individuals in the pool who had climbed the fence after hours.

Board Discussion Time

Wise commented she walked the proposed layout in Hanna Park for the Fitness Trail Phase II and liked the newly selected location.

Martin reminded everyone of the Summer Fiesta Block Party on July 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. hosted by Martin Gardner Architecture.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

Patty Wise, Secretary

**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

July 10, 2019, 7:00 A.M.  
Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Marilyn Tormey, Scott Hansen, Sunshine McDonald, Tom Ryan, Kate Pine,  
Joe Spinks  
ABSENT: Mollie Lorenz  
STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

Minutes

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Pine to approve the June 12, 2019, minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Financial Report

The financial report reflects the expenditure of \$5,000 from the Alliant Energy *Branching Out* grant to purchase 50 trees from Fleming Nursery planted on 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Public Input

None

### FY 2019-20 Tree Budget Review

Cimprich outlined the planned expenditures for trees for the current budget year. After much discussion, Spinks recommended the Tree Board take a more active part in the budget process in an effort for the Marion City Council to understand the need for funds. It was recommended the board have the discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

### Tree Plantings Winchester Drive and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue

There was discussion at a recent city council meeting about the lack of trees along Winchester Drive and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue as there is substantial development in that area and a lot of open space. The board was not in favor of delaying scheduled planting plans to respond to new requests. The overall 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue area was previously added to the scheduled planting plans. The board then discussed the potential change in ordinance to require developers plant trees in the right-of way in new developments.

### Other Action or Discussion Items

It was recommended the tree in the right-of-way at 339 9<sup>th</sup> Street be inspected for trimming.

### Staff Report

Cimprich reported the homeowner at 2400 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Chris Kula) did have the tree in the right-of-way trimmed at his expense per the agreed stipulation and was given permission to plant two additional trees in the right-of-way.

Two equipment issues were determined to be manufacturing defects and the responsibility of the equipment vendors and were repaired at no cost to the city.

Cimprich is working with McDonald and others on developing a GIS tree inventory system.

Klein Walker was hired as a full-time position in the Urban Forestry Department effective July 1, 2019.

### Board Discussion Time

The question was raised about private tree care businesses performing work in the city and what qualifications they have to do tree work. Cimprich advised they are not required to be licensed through the city, however to obtain a permit to perform work on right- of- way trees, they are required to provide proof of insurance. He also advised most of the area tree services know they need to contact him before performing any tree work on right- of -way trees. It was stated many citizens are not aware the city has the responsibility for care of right-of-way trees.

### Adjournment

Moved by Spinks and seconded by McDonald to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

Sunshine McDonald, Secretary