

## **PLEASANT HILL PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **July 14, 2016**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Vice-Chair Anne Johns called the regular meeting of the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Gary Denning, Anne Johns, Matthew Keller, Olivia Smith, Penny Thomsen and Matthew Will. Absent: Loren Lown.

#### **2. OATH OF OFFICE**

Vice-Chair Johns administered the oath of office to Matthew Keller and Matthew Will, newly appointed Commissioners.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

THOMSEN/SMITH moved to approve the agenda. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**

SMITH/DENNING moved to approve the minutes. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **5. TIME TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION (5 MINUTE LIMIT)**

Teva Dawson, Des Moines MPO, presented an overview of the regional water trails plan. The Des Moines MPO has been working with the DNR to develop a regional water trail plan. There is 115 miles of creek/river within the metro area. The area between Harriet Access and Yellow Banks is an area that sees lots of activity. The MPO is looking at the area at the boat ramp in Pleasant Hill becoming an activity hub that would include wading, fishing, soft trails and a nature habitat. There is also the potential for a greenway in the Pleasant Hill area with Mud Creek, Des Moines River and Four-Mile Creek all being in the area. This could include trails that connect to green space and connectivity to trails. Many ideas have been submitted and are being reviewed by the MPO. A vote is planned for this fall and they plan to address the city council in August. Phase 1 of the plan will be cost analysis at which point cities will be asked to help with costs planning. The MPO will assist with applying for grants. Commissioner Thomsen stated that with the large amount of usage of the boat ramp area, need to look at enhancing the parking.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review and Recommendation for Veteran's Memorial Location & Design Plan – John Lerdal, Pleasant Hill LIONS Club, was present to provide an update on the proposed location and design plan. The LIONS Club is asking for an area to locate the memorial and for the city staff to be responsible for maintenance of the site. All materials will be provided and work will be done by the LIONS Club. Denny Sharp from FEH Design, along with Abby from Genus Landscape presented four design proposals for review/recommendation. The area being requested is at Copper Creek Lake on the west side of the plaza area, next to the welcome sign. This would be visible from East University and has the needed infrastructure available. Some earth work will be required with retaining walls with plans to continue with the boulders used around the welcome sign. The DNR will be consulted regarding the flood plain. Discussion was held regarding if this will be a reflection type area or an open area. John Lerdal reported that they plan to get input from various veterans to ask what they want to see in the area. Anticipate this being a welcoming area that would be of interest to everyone and a

learning experience for many. DENNING/SMITH moved to recommend the site at Copper Creek Lake for the memorial near the welcoming sign and that as plans progress to final stages, they be brought back to the commission for approval. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **7. REPORTS**

a. June Special Events Update – June was a very busy month for programs and events. The Copper Creek Triathlon, Fishing Derby, Chill on the Hill, Touch a Truck and the Gold Hunt are some of the events that were held. The Gold Hunt continues for a couple more weeks and has again been a good program for getting kids and parents out in the parks. The Touch a Truck is a collaborative effort between the Library, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works and Park and Recreation and attendance was high this year. A SEP student volunteered and mulched approximately 30 trees in the city. The Soccer and 4-H club painted a new shed. Jazz in July and Family Funfest will be held the last week of July. The Police Department is hosting a Bike Rodeo on July 23. Rick Courcier is working on an Art in Park to be held in September in Doanes Park.

b. Master Parks Plan Update – The conceptual plans will be taken to the focus group and once finalized will be brought back to the commission for review. The focus group is meeting on July 20, and an update is also planned at a work session of the City Council on July 19.

c. Cell Phone Tower Update – Des Moines Water Works has requested that all towers be removed from the top of the water tower. It is proposed to place a monopole directly adjacent to the water tower. The public works and parks department staff have reviewed the plan and find it to be generally harmonious with their operations at the site.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

a. Olivia Smith stated she had taken the stand up paddleboard class and recommends it to others. She has been asked if there is swimming allowed in Copper Creek Lake. There is no swimming allowed in the lake.

b. Gary Denning asked about the boat access at the river as to what will work and what is recommended by city staff. Rick Courcier reported that once the MPO releases the cost estimates for various projects along the river it will be looked at for the CIP budget in the next fiscal year for possible paving of the parking lot. Council Liaison expressed concern of paving the area since this is an area that will flood. This concern will be conveyed to Teva Dawson

Pleasant Hill, Polk County and other communities that adjoin Four Mile Creek are part of a greenway study for the area. Updates will be passed on as they are received.

Matthew Will asked about the possibilities of SEP students volunteering within the city. Rick Courcier stated groups work out better for projects. There is usually something that can be done by volunteers.

New members of the commission are encouraged to sign up for the city newsletter. It is a great source of information regarding city activities.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

THOMSEN/SMITH moved to adjourn. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

- NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – August 11, 2016