

City of Maquoketa  
Parks Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.  
Maquoketa YMCA

Attendees: Leo Biehl, Ron Horan, Carol Hammill, Sara Nelson, Chris Goeckel, Scott Warren, and John Hopson. Guest – Shane Halverson

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Minutes were presented for approval. Motion by Ron Horan, seconded by Carol Hammill.
3. Audience – no additional people were here in person or via phone.
4. RC Park – Shane gave an update, sharing the work completed to date and additional assistance needed to get the course up to race standard. John and Scott will meet Shane at the park this Thursday, noon to review needs, prepare a punch list, and determine next steps.
5. Horseshoe Pond Tent Camping Policy – Scott shared that currently tent campers need to camp on the rock area. The board agreed that we should revise this policy to state that up to two tents per campsite with tents placed on the site, either rock or grassed area.
6. Scott shared that we don't have an adequate social media presence for Horseshoe Pond Campground and don't properly present amenities, in particular, the addition of a dog park. Leo and Ron will review top camping websites and make recommendations on next steps to improve our presence. Scott asked for feedback by Wednesday of next week.
7. Horseshoe Pond - Scott
  - a. John shared that he mowed the old sledding hill. He felt that we could keep that area mowed and give folks a route to access the pond from the top of the hill. He asked that parks board members walk that area and share their opinion.
  - b. Dog Park update – Scott shared that we are waiting for Lovewell to close the gaps in two gates before payment. John will be placing 5 benches.
  - c. Additional Funding opportunities – we are still seeking additional funding for two benches, play features, and doggie washing / drinking station.
7. Baseball Field Remaining Work – Scott shared that we have a significant amount of fencing to put up. He said that a fall workday was needed. We will plan toward that.
8. Skate Park update – Kevin was unable to attend, but called in his update prior.
  - a. Ramp refurbishing progress – Craig has ramps ready and they will be placed shortly
  - b. Kevin will get a linear footage for fencing and seek quotes. We will have public works cut off existing poles to 6', cap, and Lovewell or Heiar (low bid) will stretch fabric.
  - c. Report CIP usage to date – we have \$15,000 budgeted from parks for remaining work.
9. 5<sup>th</sup> Ward basketball court – John reported that work has been completed. In addition, lines were placed at 1<sup>st</sup> ward basketball courts.
10. 1<sup>st</sup> Ward restroom update – John is preparing an RFP with work to be completed in spring 2022.
11. Parks Equipment Installation – John reported that double swingsets have been installed at 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ward parks and the slide has been placed at Burlingame.

13. Scoreboards – Chris reported that for just over \$1,000 we can convert each of our scoreboards at grove to remote access. Discussion was heard re. big bend league not keeping score or having an end of the season tournament and questioned the need because of that. Significant pushback was heard. Scott shared that he will add to the end of the season organizer meeting and report back to parks in August.

14. Outstanding Work to Parks – Safety Concerns, Maintenance, Capital Items

- a. All parks board members report on parks needs from walkthroughs – we assigned parks reviews and Scott asked that we come back with updates at each park detailing maintenance work, work to existing parks, and potential future additions. Discussion was also heard re. the need to address parking lots.
- b. Security Needs based on incidents in parks – Leo reported that he met with one of our Maquoketa officers. Little Bear was the primary park where we are seeing graffiti and vandalism. The officer recommended additional lighting. Scott and Leo will meet with Chris Krogman from MMEU to see if they're able to provide assistance on this front.

14. CIP Update – Scott reported that we have \$30,000 budgeted this fiscal year. We will look at needs in our parks and potential future projects to determine how to allocate. Scott shared that if we are planning on a larger project we would want to identify it now so we can write grants and conduct the project next year.

15. Other Business – Scott shared that at our next meeting we will review ballfield rental costs and determine appropriateness of fees. Scott also asked the parks board to think through how we could implement 'park pride' events where we invite area residents to 'their' community park and talk about how we can improve and maintain parks – the goal isn't to give public works more work to do; e.g. 'the city should do..., ' but instead talk about how we need area residents to own their parks, roll up their sleeves and help to get/keep 'their' park at a high level.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at the YMCA.

Respectfully Submitted by Scott Warren