

City of Maquoketa
Parks Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 17th, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Roll Call – Ron Horan, John Hopson, Chris Gockel, and Scott Warren
3. Approval Of Agenda – approved by Ron Horan, seconded by Chris Gockel
4. Audience
 - a. 1st Ward Park – several residents came and shared concerns about what’s occurring at the park. Stories were shared about a group of high schoolers that were cussing, fighting, being disrespectful, vandalizing and being abusive to playground equipment. The commission committed to doing the following immediately: address vandalism, reaching out to Chris at MMEU to talk about lighting options and determining if the power box could be locked up, chaining down garbage cans and connecting picnic tables with chain, and adjust park hours. We will form a committee with two local residents – Becky Chapin, Kary Waack, John Hopson, Scott Warren, and a police representative. Key items to review include: signage and rules enforcement, the need to report quickly and use name, usage, hours, lighting, power box, vandalism, assembling in groups, noise ordinances, cameras, adequate police presence, and other items as deemed necessary.
5. Park Hours
 - a. Discussion and possible motion for changing open hours of parks
 - o **The motion was made by Ron Horan to change park hours to close at 8 p.m. and reopen at 5 a.m. Seconded by Chris Gockel. Motion carried.** It was agreed that exceptions would be made for the tennis courts and baseball/softball fields. We will talk with Kevin Kuhlman re. the skate park to determine appropriate hours of operation. Mallory Smith will get this on the next council agenda.
6. Horseshoe Pond - Scott
 - b. Social media presence – Ron reviewed social media platforms. There were two that he felt we needed to be a part of. He also shared that we need to update our city website to better reflect what Horseshoe Pond campground has to offer. Ron volunteered to do the mock up and will run by Scott for review.
7. Little Bear Park – Scott
 - a. Scott clarified that the city owns the blacktopped area and the smaller play structure. The school district operated under a usage agreement, but the agreement ran out in 2015. Mallory is in discussion with the school district about future usage plans of that area. In the meantime John said that he would install mulch at the small playground. Scott shared the lighting plan that was discussed with MMEU – it was agreed that lighting at 1st Ward was our priority and if additional pole/light were available we would then install at Little Bear.
8. Outstanding Work to Parks – Safety Concerns, Maintenance, Capital Items
 - a. Security Needs based on incidents in parks – John will work with Frank to identify ‘vandalism proof’ lighting at shelters and lockable outlets.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Scott Warren