



## **CEDAR FALLS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

110 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2021  
Seerley Park, 4:30 p.m.**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:

Brian Bowman, Leslie Nixon, Clare Struck, Kelsey Schreiber, Sarah Corkery

Staff: Stephanie Sheetz, JJ Lillibridge, Kevin Cross, Kari Voss, Megan Gerhardt, Chris Schoentag

Public Attendee: Rosemary Beach

Absent: Alan Stalnaker, Erik Blanchard, Chase Schrage, Brian Heath

- II. Introduction of Guests

- Megan Gerhardt, Fitness Coordinator at the Rec Center

- III. Approve of Minutes of April 8, 2021

- Motion by Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schreiber. Minutes were approved 7-0.

- IV. Correspondence

- None.

- V. Agenda Revisions and Public Forum

- Public Forum

Public attendee Rosemary Beech presented with three concerns.

1. Overgrown Vegetation on College Street

Rosemary found overgrown thistles and vegetation in a park on College Street on the east side of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection. Rosemary would like to know who is responsible.

- a) City staff responded that it is the responsibility of the College Hill Partnership.

2. Sanction Stones/Perpetual Care of Cemetery Graves

Rosemary wanted to know what the City is doing for perpetual care and who is responsible for gravestones that are over 100 years old with no family left to care for them.

- a) Cross responded that the City is currently responsible for mowing and upkeep of the cemeteries. However, the families are responsible for the stones themselves. The City does realize that after 100 years of passing, there may not be any family left to care for the stone. Some citizens don't want their stones touched. If perpetual care damages a stone – who is responsible? The City is looking at what the definition of what perpetual care should look like and having ongoing discussions. Sheetz noted that the historic preservation committee is working on cemeteries, and some of their work may involve some of the issues.

3. Cup of Joe Parking Lot Walkway

Rosemary had a concern for safety in the parking lot behind Cup of Joe. Rosemary claims that there is no existing walkway and that you have to walk between cars.

Furthermore, the stones are falling, and the slope in the alley makes it unsafe to walk where the rocks are and questions why stairs were put in. She also recommends vetch in the area but notes it would catch a lot of garbage.

- a) Sheetz responded that public works are working on the stones falling down this week. A lot of the edge of the curb sluffed off from the snowmelt. The City is planning on monitoring it in the future to see if a different material or edging needs to be put into place. The stairs are there because of the incline to make it a safe walkway.

- Birdsall Concrete Cricket Area

1. Cross spoke of a recently found out issue with the Birdsall concrete cricket area. The concrete pour was slated to collect bids and brought before the commission; however, park staff was alerted that there was already concrete poured. No one from the commission knew it was occurring. City staff will talk next week to hopefully learn more about this.

- Falls Aquatic Center

1. Lillibridge spoke of the unfortunate and challenging situations that have recently taken place at the Falls. The City has taken immediate action. The City wants to be firm and get rid of the problem right away.
  - a) City staff has been meeting about these situations to include the Cedar Falls Police Department, Mayor, and Director.
  - b) The Cedar Falls Police will have officers at the pool from 5-Close through Sunday, June 11.
  - c) On Monday, June 12, City Staff will meet and discuss other long-term solutions.
  - d) Banners and signs will be displayed at the entrance and throughout the Falls to remind citizens of the no-tolerance policy.
  - e) The Falls will be transitioning to 2 pool managers from 6-Close.
  - f) Lifeguards are encouraged to get a pool manager involved sooner.
  - g) Manager staff will be getting professional shirts to identify them.
  - h) Implementation of a no-tolerance policy. Historically the Falls has had three strikes, and you're out policy; moving forward, it is a no-tolerance policy. Any actions that violate the policy will cause a citizen to be removed from the pool for one week. The thought is to put a more significant gap between the incident and the return. Previously it had been only one day being removed before being allowed back. If those causing problems are not allowed to enter, likely their friends who may also cause problems won't come either.
  - i) The City is issuing a press release from the Mayor and is looking at long-term solutions. They want the community to feel supportive and safe.
2. Public attendee Rosemary asked about cameras and whether that could help identify those causing problems.
  - a) City staff responded that they need the names that go along with the faces to identify them.
3. Commission chair Nixon asked whether there was a dress code at the Falls as she heard of a parent being concerned about a dress code for swimsuits.
  - a) Schoentag replied that there are signs posted that illustrate appropriate swimwear. He has not seen anything concerning this year.
4. Commission chair Nixon questioned the number of customers wanting a pool refund from the fight.
  - a) Lillibridge responded that there have only been two requests.
5. Commission members asked about whether we should only allow pass holder admittance into the Falls pool.

- a) City staff responded that the pool is a public pool and would like to keep it that way. Daily drop-ins allow citizens with financial restrictions to enjoy the Falls. Especially families that may be living below-median income who attend when extra money is available.
  - b) Commission member Bowman added that he would not enjoy it if it were pass holders only as he only visits the pool once a year. Likely other citizens and families who occasionally stop in and enjoy it wouldn't be able to enjoy it either.
6. Commission chair Nixon asked why we would not do the ongoing walkthrough.
- a) Lillibridge responded that they would like to see more police there beyond Sunday; however, it is also the police's busy time, and we are trying to be sensitive to their overtime. We are trying the approach to be overcautious the first time to make sure it is handled correctly. On Monday, there will be future talks on this.
  - b) Commission member Corkery noted that when Place to Play Park had issues last year, they hired off-duty police officers who did help. That is also a lower-cost option if police are too busy.

VI. Unfinished Business

- None.

VII. New Business

- None.

VIII. Reports

- Parks Update - Cross
  - 1. Most playground areas have received new mulch. They have more mulch on order and will be finishing the remaining playgrounds soon.
  - 2. Girl Scouts have installed dog waste bag stations at Overman Park.
  - 3. Eagle Scouts are painting the shelters.
  - 4. Arbors have removed the remainder of the ash trees out of Pfeifer Park. They are continuing to work on removing ash trees in the buyout lot area.
  - 5. The Place to Play parking lot has had concrete poured. Parking lot lines and cutting of the cement will occur within the next week. The parking lot should be finished within the next two weeks.
  - 6. The storybook project has been installed, and that project will be wrapping up next week with landscaping.
  - 7. The Parks Department has been busy preparing for Sturgis Falls.
  - 8. Pickleball court asphalt is fissuring. The City is waiting for Aspro's recommendation. Currently, the asphalt fissuring is not affecting gameplay.
  - 9. Island Park is working with DNR and Amanda Huisman on promotional videos.
  - 10. The cemetery mausoleum project is complete. The cemetery staff has been cleaning up after Memorial Day. There were some complaints this year about missing items.
  - 11. Park staff continues to mow. With the current dry weather conditions and high heat, they hope the mowing frequency will slow enough to trim trail grass.
    - a. Citizen Rosemary noted that a memorial bench near the Mayor's Bridge needs to be trimmed around so the creek can be viewed from the bench.
      - i. Cross responded that if the mowing slows, they will be on the trails trimming.
- Recreation Update – Lillibridge
  - 1. Recreation has several projects in the works.

- a) We are close to securing new software CivicRec, which will be a significant improvement to our customer's interface. It will allow us to get more organized with our programs and break down costs and pricing within our Rec facility.
  - b) We are looking into options to fix high turnover at the front desk. Currently, nothing is set in stone, but we are looking at potentially adding some permanent part-time positions to bring in more experience and add consistency to the schedule.
  - c) A marketing plan is in the works looking at how we are communicating and how Cedar Falls citizens are consuming their media—focusing on our avenues and narrowing the scope to get accurate communication.
2. Youth sports starting this week include track and field, tennis, and swim lessons. Camp Cedar Falls starts next week at full capacity. The before and aftercare care was changed to onsite at the schools this year to increase operations and decrease transportation.
  3. Adult sports have started with slow-pitch softball at Birdsall and a bags league at River Place Plaza.
  4. Rentals and park usage have been very popular. The Beach House is rented every weekend and several weekdays.
  5. Several fitness programs are branching out from the Rec Center to different parks.
  6. We are planning on collaborating with businesses and outside organizations for online programming like the cooking show for kids. A presentation was done at a May city council meeting, and we can move forward in our plans.
  7. Falls pool had its season-opening day on Memorial Day, Monday, because of the cold front.

- Director Update - Sheetz

1. Riverfront Project has received a \$1.5 Million grant from Black Hawk County Gaming. The river project would add jetties with pool areas for fishing and kayaks and create aquatic habitats. The total project is \$4 Million; therefore, project fundraising is still happening to help support a portion of the project and will hopefully bid on it later this year.

IX. Agenda Items - Next Meeting

- TBD

X. Next Meeting

- July 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m. at Clay Street Park.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.