

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, September 15, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
Recreation Park

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Commissioner Beachum and the roll was called.

Members Present: Jeff Altoft, Nancy Anderson, Perry Beachum, Paula Mierendorf and Susan Pomper

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Scott Fosburg, Mark Howe, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson, Mari Stone, Dave Austin, Al Halbeisen, Jessica Marks, Jon Bieneman, Sue Eventt, Bruce Doll, Peggy Covert and Luanne Wisniewski

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY MIERENDORF and seconded by POMPER to approve the agenda as presented.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

IT WAS MOVED BY POMPER and seconded by MIERENDORF to approve the minutes of July 14, 2015 as corrected.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

4. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORT

Howe explained there is \$6,835.00 available to spend from the Lee Fund on projects for the parks.

By consensus the commissioners approved the financial report.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mierendorf read a letter printed in the Lowell Ledger August 12, 2015 which the Parks meeting was mentioned in a negative way. Betty Olson quoted Mark Howe in the article, however she has never attended a parks meeting. The parks committee would like to set the record straight that they are happy with Mark Howe and feels their concerns and questions are answered.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No comments were discussed on this item.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Youth Fair Lease and Signage**

Beachum brought his concerns regarding the signs along the fence on N. Hudson Street to the fair board. Bruce Doll explained what a great fundraiser the signs were and the donors were told they would be displayed for 60 days. The City ordinance states signs in the parks can be displayed the week before, week of the event and the week after. Howe suggested they contact Susan Ullery to have the issue brought to the planning commission, possibly something could be written in the new lease.

Jessica Marks mentioned the fair is thinking possibly in five years they would be ready for the move to the new property. This year was a record year for the fair, with large crowds attending.

b. **Lowell Area Trail Way**

David Austin gave a presentation for Lowell Area Recreation Authority (L.A.R.A.) regarding the plans for the trail way that will connect the Fred Meijer River Trail through Lowell. L.A.R.A. is working with MDOT and the DNR on the suggested route.

c. **Review 2014 Wish List**

The commissioners reviewed the progress made on the 2014 Wish List and found three items remaining. It was discussed to try for a grant for item 8, improving the parking at Creekside and Stoney Lakeside Parks. The commissioners will work this winter on a new wish list for 2016.

8. **PARKS UPDATE**

a. Recreation Park

Jessica Marks would like to see a speed limit sign on Broadway. Howe advised her to contact the Police Chief, Steve Bukala.

There was a discussion on how often the baseball field is used. Beachum expressed a desire to have Burch Field moved to a new location out of the flood zone opening that area up for events.

b. **Stoney Lakeside Park**

No comments were received or discussed on this item.

c. **Creekside Park**

No comments were received or discussed on this item.

d. **Richards Park**

Scott Fosburg commented the repairs around the slide are being worked on and will be completed soon.

e. **Upper Bridge, Moose/Rogers, North Washington Properties**

No comments were received or discussed on this item.

f. **Riverwalk Park**

Anderson asked Howe how the deck project at the library is coming along. Mark Howe said the Lowell Rotary is moving forward with its plans.

9. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY POMPER and seconded by ANDERSON to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Wisniewski