MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

7:00pm, Thursday October 20, 2022, Pulpit Rock Campground Picnic Shelter

Chairman Rich Gaard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, Board members Benji Nichols, Brian Fuhrmann and Kathy Bakken were present. Other meeting attendees included staff members Scott Vande Krol, Blake Moen and Andy Nimrod.

Nimrod reported that he had taken public comment in support of the building of a disc golf course in Decorah and that he encouraged the individual to come to the November Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Bakken motioned to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 Board meeting on the condition of fixing one typo, Nichols seconded, all approved.

Moen gave a report on the 2022 swimming pool season. Moen reported that attendance numbers and revenue numbers were all very good for 2022. He shared those numbers, and highlighted a couple of items that made 2022 an exceptionally great pool season. First of all, staff met all four goals that were set coming out of the 2021 season, which included; replacing the high dive, developing a new computerized swim pass system, finding a way to get every child into swim lessons that was interested, and having the pool staffed so that it could be open from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. He concluded by praising the work of part time staff who managed the pool, lifeguarded at the pool and maintained the pool. They worked as a great team to make the pool an enjoyable and safe place for the community to enjoy.

Vande Krol provided the Board an update of fees and policies at Pulpit Rock Campground from the 2022 camping season. Camping rates have been the same for the last three camping seasons. Vande Krol's report also included a rate comparison with other area campgrounds. Vande Krol will be giving a financial report of the 2022 camping season at the November meeting. The Board will be asked to set rates and discuss any changes for the 2023 season following the report. The Board followed up with a short discussion regarding the long-term plan for rates and how those rates affect the budget. The Board asked to see a couple of different fee options at the next meeting to consider.

In the review of financial matters Nimrod shared a copy of statement from the Memorial Fund and noted a recent deposit of $1,225 from the Nordic Fest Board to Decorah Human Powered Trails for their work in the beer garden during Nordic Fest. Nimrod shared a list of potential capital improvement items that he was working with City Administration on. Nimrod reported that the balances of the endowments had steadied after recent downturns in the market.

Department reports:

- *Moen reported that the fall activities guide was out and that registration had begun for youth basketball*
- *The 40th annual Turkey Shoot will be held November 8*
- *Fuhrmann reported the Decorah Gear Exchange was well attended and plans were already being made for the next event*
- *The ribbon cutting of Dry Run Plaza was held October 10 by Decorah Betterment*
- *The ribbon cutting for the Vet's memorial was scheduled for late October. Rich and Carol Gaard donated the flag for the memorial, the flag originally flew over the Pentagon.*
- *Fuhrmann questioned if the contract with the Vet's Association was being followed. Nimrod will review contract, talk with Fuhrmann and bring to the next meeting*
- *Nimrod reported that work is still being done on the Iowa Great Places projects as the grant draws to a close at the end of the year. The two remaining projects are the steps at Ice Cave and the Larson Fountain.*
- *Work to fix a section of Trout Run Trail and Charlie Miller Drive will begin October 24 by Bruening Rock Products*

Nimrod and Vande Krol reported that they had attended the annual Fall Iowa Parks and Recreation Workshop held in Marshalltown October 4.

The November meeting was confirmed for 7:00pm, November 17, 2022.

Bakken motioned to adjourn, Fuhrmann seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Nimrod
Director
Decorah Parks and Recreation