MINUTES: DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

5:00pm, Thursday December 14, 2023, Decorah City Hall, Council Chambers

Rich Gaard, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, Brian Fuhrmann, Kathy Bakken, Benji Nichols and Zach Kerndt were all present. Others in attendance included staff members Corey Meyer, Logan Hahn and Andy Nimrod as well as future councilman Christopher Miculinich. There was no public comment. Bakken motioned to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting, Gaard seconded, all approved.

While reviewing financial matters the Board asked about the rate of return the Memorial Fund CD's are currently getting. Nimrod will look into amount invested and rates of return and will also see if money in the memorial fund could be transferred to the quasi endowment if the rates were better.

Nimrod shared the budget as staff had prepared it. The board reviewed the various aspects of the budget, including the following:

- *The FY'25 proposed operating budget of expense and revenue.*
- *User fees had been increased 20% in Recreation, Swimming Pool, Campground and Parks since February, 2023 in response to reduced state funding.*
- *Proposed FY'25 Capital Improvement Projects.*
- *Hotel Motel funds and how that helps short term and long term planning.*

Nichols motioned to approve the proposed FY'25 budget as presented, Bakken seconded, all approved.

The Board discussed considering a work session for the Decorah Parks and Recreation policy review but decided to leave it for monthly meetings for now. Nimrod reported that the policy review did not need to go through Council, however there might be items that should be considered in a joint meeting. Nichols agreed and noted that working with the Council would be beneficial. Board and staff were presented updated copies of the policy rough draft and were asked to submit any suggestions to Nimrod by January 12th to prepare for the January Board meeting.

Staff gave short reports of work happenings in the various departments. The next meeting was scheduled for 7:00pm, January 18, 2024. Kerndt motioned to adjourn, Bakken seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Nimrod
Director
Decorah Parks and Recreation