DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
City Hall Council Chambers
Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 5:00 PM

1. **Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions** – *Gaard, Bakken, Fuhrmann and Kerndt* were present. *Nichols* joined on Zoom. *Marc Holtey* (Parks and Recreation Director) was also present.

2. **Visitors/Public Comment** – *Danielle Dotzenrod* shared about trail clearance projects with Saddle Club Volunteers and Park Staff on 8/8 and 8/15. Noted that Edna Jacobson, one of the original Saddle Club members volunteered on 8/8. *Thomas Johnson* shared that DHPT had 20 volunteers assist with storm and flood clean up on Tuesday, August 19 with 40 plus hours of volunteer work. *Kent Klocke* acknowledged the Saddle Club for helping with trails. DHPT volunteers assessed trail conditions due to heavy rain. Noted that Dunning's Spring side took a lot of water in ravines and washed-out areas.

3. **Consider Approval of Minutes for July 17, 2025 (Regular Meeting) and July 31, 2025 (Special Meeting)** – *Bakken* made a motion to approve the minutes. *Fuhrmann* – 2nd. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0.

4. **Department Reports** – *Holtey* shared his appreciation for the work of the volunteers on the trails over the past couple weeks. Noted the storm/flood response of the volunteers and staff this past week.
   RECREATION
   Coming to Close
   - Summer events and programs concluded late July
   - Summer slow pitch nearing final games

   Ongoing
   - Registration for fall programs and events

   Coming Up:
   - G2G Summer Celebration August 21st
     - Rescheduled from August 15th due to weather
   - Monarch Butterfly Tagging event on September 3rd
   - Fall youth programs kickoff September 6th

   POOL
   - Closure
   - Lap Swim and Aquacise at Luther (Week of August 18 and August 25)
   - Storm Clean Up (This Week)
   - Painting 1/3.
   - Gravel – Donation from Perry Novak (hauled rock and graded). Parks finished grading.

   CAMPGROUND
   - Response to storms and flooding.
   - Three sites were closed this week/weekend.

   PARKS
   - Phelps Shelter 1 – New Roof.
   - Trout Run Park Shelters – Removal of upper shelter. Moving the lower shelter to replace the upper shelter.
   - Carlson Park Prairie Restoration (WQI Grant)
   - Parking Lots – regrading rock.
   - Stihl Electric Mower.
   - Seeding Plan at Carlson Park Gateway Trail.
   - Storm/Flooding - Trail and park closures, damage to parking lots, bridges and other infrastructure.

5. **Trail Project Updates** – *Nick Pearch* provided a summary of the projects accomplished and upcoming projects. Shared projects are pivoting from finishing the final Palisades re-route to storm/flood clean up on the trails. Talked about projects related to the Two for the Trails grant – bridges and a re-route on

the Luge trail to make the trail safer at the entry/exit point. Shared about the Dunning's Spring trail project, sponsored by the Rotary Club. The hiking trail will provide more accessibility to the trail above Dunning's Spring.

6. **Consider Approval of Additional Sponsorship Opportunities at Decorah Athletic Complex** – *Holtey* shared an update on the fundraising. Additional naming rights and sponsorships have been discussed by the fundraising team. *Holtey* proposed additional naming rights for dug outs and the Diamond #2 concession/bathroom, as well as giving levels on the donor sign in the plaza. The Board was receptive and supportive of the additions. *Kerndt* made a motion to approve the additions. *Fuhrmann* - 2nd. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0.

7. **Discussion and Recommendation for CAT Grant Additional Amenities at the Decorah Athletic Complex** – *Holtey* shared he and Travis Goedken would be meeting with the County Board of Supervisors on Monday at their regular meeting. Talked about the need to receive county support for the CAT grant. The purpose of the CAT grant would be to augment what has been approved, the Base Bid plus 3 Alternates (Sod on Field #1, 3rd Field and Double Batting Tunnel). The discussion and recommendation would be either: Additional priorities (facility wise) outside of Base Plus 3 or additional quantities of the alternates. *Kerndt* shared that lighting and concessions were important to replace what we already have on Diamond #2. *Bakken* agreed with those priorities. *Fuhrmann* shared that lighting would be priority, followed by concessions. Most powerful grant application. Lighting would be paramount. *Gaard* shared that a 4th field would be first, followed by lighting. One field and pickleball courts lit. *Kerndt* added lighting first and bathrooms a close second. *Kerndt* shared that we need lights before a 4th field. *Nichols* talked about focusing on grant and what would be the most appealing grant application. Shared that lighting is important, as well as funding alternates.

8. **Consider Approval of Plan for (Archery Only) Deer Hunting in Selected City Parks** – *Holtey* shared that the plan is same content as last year with the addition of a "proficiency test" for hunters, 3 out of 5 arrows into a 9-inch target at 20 yards away. The test could be completed at the Decorah Archery Range or at Anthem Archery (need to confirm with Drew). *Holtey* shared that he gleamed a couple of things from City of Dubuque Deer Management Program. *Kerndt* thought the proficiency test would be a good addition. *Fuhrmann* made a motion to approve the plan. *Kerndt – 2nd*. Ayes: 4; Nays: 0.

9. **Updates on Park Projects –** *Holtey* provided updates on park projects.
   - Decorah Athletic Complex – Awarded bid to Skyline – Base Plus 3 Alternates. $849,000 raised. $200,000 plus gap to raise for all 3 approved alternates. Process of setting up contract and pre-con meeting including a tentative construction timeline. *Fuhrmann* and *Kerndt* suggested getting Board suggested getting a letter of support from Decorah Schools. *Gaard t*alked about the process of fundraising and the focus of the team who meets weekly.
   - Carlson Park Gateway Trail Project (1A and 1B) – Moving along. Four small change orders approved by DOT. Corey, Marc and Pine Creek talked through the seeding plan. Drone footage was captured a couple of weeks ago to chart the progress.
   - Wayside Park Basketball Hoops – Hoops, Backboard and Angle Posts Off Hoops. Remove vertical posts (carefully).

10. **Consider Approval of Plan for Decorah Municipal Pool 2025 Season Pass Holders** – *Holtey* summarized the pool closure due to glass in the pool and the proposal for 2025 season pass holders. Proposal to refund 25% of annual pass holders fees (credit to account) to apply to future programming or a 2026 season pass. *Holtey* shared that the pool was closed first week of the season due to mechanical issues and last two weeks due to glass in the pool. *Kerndt* recommended that season pass holders should contact the office to receive the credit. *Fuhrmann* agreed. Additional discussion involved setting a date for pass holders to respond requesting a credit to their account. Discussed the communication process for notifying pass holders. *Kerndt* made a motion to refund 25% of the annual pass (through a credit to account) for those pass holders who respond by a date set by the Parks and

Recreation staff. *Fuhrmann* - 2nd. Ayes: 4; Nays: 0. *Holtey* shared that this would be passed along to *Travis Goedken* to put on the City Council Agenda for Tuesday, September 2.

11. **Financial – Budget, Community Foundation and Grant Updates** – *Holtey* shared financial updates.
    - ❖ Budget – First month of FY'26. (-) is a "plus" on Revenue sheets. Tracking staff time, equipment, supplies due to the Flood/Storm response.
    - ❖ Community Foundation balances.
    - ❖ IRVM Grant Award. Multiple smaller grants for the Decorah Athletic Complex project.

12. **Other Business** – *Fuhrmann* – lost cat found at Van Peenen with no identification. *Bakken* – Phelps – Kids climbing up fountain and sticking twigs into spouts. In addition, *Bakken* noted kids were climbing up statue on Dug Road. Consider signage. Board members talked about options for next meeting in September, *Holtey* will be at the National Recreation and Parks Association conference.

13. **Adjourn** – *Bakken* made a motion to adjourn. *Gaard* – 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Parks and Recreation Director