

**SUMMARY**  
**DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**  
**5:00 p.m., February 23, 2021**

*Iowa Code section 21.4 requires that each Parks and Recreation Board meeting shall be held at a place reasonably accessible to the public and at a time reasonably convenient to the public, unless for good cause such a place or time is impossible or impracticable. Given Mayor Cownie's March 17, 2020 Proclamation Amendment, as amended, prohibiting indoor gatherings of ten or more persons on public property and further given Section One of the Governor's February 5, 2021 Proclamation strongly encouraging vulnerable Iowans to limit participation in gatherings of any size and any purpose during the COVID -19 outbreak and further given Section 108 of said Governor's Proclamation suspending the regulatory provisions of Iowa Code §§ 21.8, 26.12, and 414.12, or any other statute imposing a requirement to hold a public meeting or hearing, and given the City Manager's decision to delay opening of City buildings to the public until at least April 1, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Board has determined that a meeting at a physical place is impossible or impracticable and all Parks and Recreation Board meetings for the time being will be conducted electronically with the public allowed to attend per the instructions on this agenda.*

*The Parks and Recreation Board will be participating by ZOOM meeting due to COVID-19.*

*The public can participate by using the information below:*

*Topic: Parks and Recreation Board*

*Time: Feb 23, 2021 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://dmgov-org.zoom.us/j/83916660486?pwd=anZBREwzcndjMFY1SlpJb0lxc25yZz09>

*Meeting ID: 839 1666 0486*

*Passcode: 504802*

*One tap mobile*

*+13126266799,,83916660486#,,, \*504802# US (Chicago)*

*Dial by your location*

*+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)*

*877 853 5257 US Toll-free*

*Meeting ID: 839 1666 0486*

*Passcode: 504802*

<p>The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board took the following action on items listed in the attached meeting agenda summary. Copies of resolutions may be obtained from the Parks and Recreation Office 237-1403. Please refer to the five-digit resolution number when requesting information or copies. Any item requiring a roll call was taken by voice vote. For purposes of condensation, roll calls will only be broken down in the minutes when the actual vote was <u>not</u> unanimous.</p>
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**#21-008      ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Davis, Ogle, Avila, Fanter, Potter  
Busch (5:40), Facto, Woodard,  
Bollard (5:05), Vilmain, Lohmeier, Pugh  
Cody

**Absent:** Bremner, Thompson

**#21-009 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND/OR AMENDED**

**Motion by Potter to approve agenda as presented  
Second by Fanter  
Motion carried**

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**MINUTES**

**#21-010 Minutes of January 26, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

**Motion by Facto to accept the January 26, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes  
Second by Fanter  
Motion carried**

**BOARD ACTION**

**#21-011 Birdland Park Master Plan**

Page introduced the project. The master plan will go before the council. Page introduced Colby Fangman, Park Planner II. Fangman introduced consultants Jay Blue and Tom Rogers, Smithgroup, lead consultant. Fangman provided a brief introduction to master plan consultant selection process and the public engagement process information.

Tom Rogers, Landscape Architect with Smithgroup, provided information on the master plan. Process started with a site analysis. Public input process included asking what is important. The number one activity was trails followed by boating and enjoying nature. Socials and community activities were important with Captain Roy's and Ding Darling. Concepts were studied and came up with the concept master plan. Improvements to Birdland Shelter with a deck and destination playground was incorporated into the plan.

Brent Schipper provided the Birdland Boathouse plan concept - first floor storage area with the second floor Captain Roy's dining area, and meeting room. The terrace is a big component of this facility.

Rogers provided a destination playground concept to drive attendance. Kayak launch alignment. Marina capacity increased.

Jay Blue, Smithgroup, Landscape Architect, provided information on peninsula area in conjunction with Central Iowa Water Trails project. Five phases are planned for this proposed master plan concept with preliminary cost estimates of a total of \$54.4M. Performa has been developed for this site. Park operations assumptions of \$1.1M with potential revenue opportunities assumption about \$1.5M. Grant funding opportunities were explored to assist this project. Blue summarized the project schedule. Fangman advised staff will be working through CIP projects and grants for funding.

Westergaard emphasized it was an honor to work with City staff and the consultant to make this successful. (council members in attendance Voss, and Boesen). There has been great support for this project.

Jack Daughtery praised the project and the process. The neighborhood is behind and excited about this project.

Melissa Rarick, powerboat club member and marina boat slip tenant, questioned the waterway with no wake zones. Fangman stated work will be coordinated with Central Iowa Trails with no wake zones. Stakeholders will be contacted for a public process. Rarick asked about water safety. The city needs to keep water safety awareness in mind.

Woodard questioned timing and alignment knowing there are deadlines with CIWT. Page stated that information will be provided on the Central Iowa Trails presentation. The BUILD grant is moving forward. Excited about the project.

Potter questioned the depth of the lagoon. Fangman stated it is two to three feet deep filled with mostly sediment and organic matter which does not supply enough air for fish to survive. DNR fishery has been contacted to stock.

Fanter asked about impact on the eagle nesting habitat. Page stated there are a lot of federal rules required to not have a negative impact on the eagles. Regulations are in place on when building can take place.

Cody questioned the physical accessibility of the boathouse. Page advised ADA guidelines will be followed.

Bush asked if water fountains are included in project. Page stated it will be included.

**Motion by Facto to approve the Birdland Park master plan  
Second by Woodard  
Motion carried**

### **RECEIVE AND FILE**

#### **#21-012 Central Iowa Water Trails**

Page introduced the project. Page introduced Maggie McClelland, project manager for Central Iowa Water Trails. McClelland presented a PowerPoint on the project overview, operations and business plan, safety aspects, education, and economic development. 15 monitors will be tied to water quality. Prospect Park is slated to be a stopping point, a pass-through point and put in location. Birdland Marina and water trails BUILD grant is working in tandem. Birdland will primarily be as a put in operations at this location. Center Street will be the key component slated to be the high adventure site. Scott Avenue is the nature connection tied to BUILD grant. Harriett Street is the destination. Fleur Drive serves as a pass through and could be a put in location. The dam area at Scott Avenue will be modified and will provide water ecology and serve as an outdoor education site. Fleur Drive will have a regional draw with users participating in surfing or kayaking. McClelland provided timeline for construction and break down of costs. McClelland provided the projected revenues for the downtown projects. The City will have ownership and maintenance responsibilities with anything attached to the land at Scott Avenue, Prospect Park, Birdland Marina and Harriett, and CIWT would provide maintenance on in-water and outfitters at the sites.

McClelland stated water quality management questions/concerns were addressed – provided an overview of the monitoring system.

Pugh questioned the mitigation of the problem of water quality upstream. Inman stated water quality measures will be funded and monitored. Water monitoring will help identify the sources of any water quality issues.

Ogle commented that 95% of project is fantastic. Had questions with the area west of the bridge to Grays Lake and Grays Landing. It looks like there is a parking lot in the middle of green space where eagles nest. Why install a parking lot? Need to look at other alternatives, or need to consider the impact of eagles. There are other areas of the river. Inman stated this is a concept piece at this point and assume that changes will be made. Eagle habitat is a priority going into final design.

Davis questioned if CIWT would be responsible for water safety signage. The signage package is being put together. Funding maintenance efforts would come from revenues or a reimbursement process until revenue source is there. DNR would also be involved in replacing them.

Facto questioned if any of the maintenance endowment contributions come back to the city for upkeep or is it for CIWT. Inman stated at this point specifics have not been finalized. Scott Sanders advised that any additional costs to the city will not be taken from the budget from parks. Facto asked if increase costs of employees in these areas have been projected. Page stated base line of services has been forecasted when four sites come on line. Sanders stated will need to add resources for additional maintenance and work with CIWT on who will be paying for those services. Sanders commented that signage needs to be discussed and finalized.

Cody questioned the Center Street adventure area what class of rapids are being projected. Walt Pennington, McLaughlin, stated Center Street has opportunities to be a world class venue. The type of adventure has not been defined.

Davis is receptive to this project but need to be more specific moving forward.

Fanter questioned water quality at the four sites. Would it be safe to be in the water in terms of pathogens? Inman stated historical data has been reviewed with 80% of time deemed safe depending on activity.

Woodard commented this is a big project and is exciting to see the overall picture. Supports the project.

**Motion by Potter to receive and file the Central Iowa Water Trails  
Second by Facto  
Motion carried**

**#21-013**

2020 Golf Report

Page introduced Ned and Rocky Chiodo. Chiodo highlighted areas of the report. This was an exceptional year due to COVID. A 30% increase in rounds with a 21% increase in revenue. Food and beverages were down due to the clubhouse being closed. Revenue to city over \$461,000. Badge sales were up dramatically. Currently renegotiating with the city to renew contract.

**Motion by Potter to receive and file 2020 golf report  
Second by Woodard  
Motion carried**

## REPORT OF PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

### Report of Chair of Board and Committees

- Urban Conservation committee – (Woodard, Facto)  
No report
- Citizen Golf Advisory committee – (Pugh, Fanter)  
No report
- Citizen Cemetery Advisory committee – (Potter)  
Cemetery fees update coming to board
- Trails and Greenways committee– (Lohmeier, Bollard)  
No report

**#21-014**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Bollard  
Woodard  
Motion carried.

*Helping Des Moines Live Well, Play Hard and Protect the Earth*