

**MINUTES OF THE BETTENDORF PARK BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Bettendorf Park Board held a Committee of the Whole on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Present:                   Chairperson – Larry Makoben  
                              Vice-Chairperson – Don Wells  
                              Commissioner – Tim Carroll  
                              Commissioner – Tom Dryg  
                              Commissioner – Steve Wilger

**STAFF OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

All divisions/areas were reported on through official Board Reports given to the Park Board. Any comments or questions are listed below:

1. Parks Maintenance report – Jason Manfull reported that the Covid-19 pandemic has curtailed some of their work. All the playgrounds were closed on March 30<sup>th</sup> and the skate park, dog parks, tennis courts and pickleball courts were closed March 31<sup>st</sup>. The recreation trails have remained open and people have been doing a great job social distancing. Jason mentioned that because of the closings, they were able to do some things they don't normally get to do. They did an aerification and over seeding of all the dog park areas. They are planning a rotation schedule for the dog parks of a month, to every six weeks to reduce the wear and tear on the grass. They were also able to aerify most of the athletic fields. Currently the parks maintenance dept. staffs eight (five full time and three part time). With that staff they were able to get an initial round of clean up done in the parks. As long as it stays cool, around 60 degrees, the parks staff of eight will be able to keep up with park maintenance. Jason stated that they will be breaking ground Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> on the new storage building behind the parks maintenance facility. Tom Dryg inquired about the bridge work at the golf course. Jason said that Hollowview Park was used to access part of the golf course where that bridge work is being done; but the damage was very minimal.
2. Golf Maintenance report – Brian Hickey reported that due to the colder weather the golf course was closed a couple of days. Those days allowed for the repair of some hail damage the course recently suffered. The repairs included rolling down the greens to smooth them out, punching some holes and top dressing them. Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> they will open to the back nine only. Because everything was not getting done, another staff member was added. Now there is a staff of eight working on basic operations and another seven or eight are waiting patiently to start work when things get closer to normal. Brian said the bridge renovation is going well; but when the bridge decking arrived it wasn't up to the specifications the IMEG engineers had anticipated, so the bridge decking was refused. They met with the bridge company and new, higher quality decking will be delivered. That decking problem only set them back a week on the project. The goal for opening the whole golf course is still May 1<sup>st</sup>. After the bridge decking is delivered there will be repair work to golf course. Brian thinks they will need a street roller to smooth the ground. Then they will aerify and slit seed. The cart paths have been covered so they do not get broken through this process. Tom Dryg commented on the crane that is by the golf maintenance shed off of Middle Road. Brian stated that the maintenance shop area is the unloading area for the semis bringing in the bridge decking. Vice Chairperson Wells inquired about the future creek renovation project for Stafford creek mentioned in Brian's report. Brian said there have been erosion issues for a while. Rob DePover from public works is taking a look at the creek and is going to start documenting the erosion. Brian realizes that funding will be scarce; but he feels that considerable bank is being lost with any rain event over an inch. A rain event over an inch usually becomes a flash flood event for the golf course and part of the bank sloughs off. The creek gets wider and with the channel being at 90 degrees it is unstable and may be a liability to golfers that get too close. They are thinking about expanding the "no mow" area by the creek to prevent golfers from getting too close and having it cave in. Stafford creek is processing a lot more water than it used to, due to the city expanding. Brian added that he feels this project is something that should be budgeted for down the road.
3. Golf Course report – John Waddell feels March was a good month given the Covid-19 adjustments to operations.

4. Palmer Grill report – John Waddell mentioned that it has been a tough go for the grill this month due to the Covid-19 regulations. They are getting a good amount of to-go orders when the golf course has patrons. Liz Solis-Willis added that Michelle reported the grill brought in over \$1000.00 with to-go Easter Sunday Brunch. John mentioned that the response to Easter Brunch to-go was better than they anticipated. Larry Makoben said his family purchased the to-go brunch and it was delicious and plentiful.
5. Tennis Report – Liz Solis-Willis added that Dan was able to start some of the indoor tennis programs; but not able to finish them due to the closure of the Life Fitness Center. Therefore next month's numbers will show a decline in attendance.
6. Recreation report – Liz Solis-Willis added that there have been many cancellations and postponements due the uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 regulations and closures. The outdoor spring soccer program was canceled. It is one of the larger programs that typically has close to 900 participants. Online and drop-in registration started for the spring and summer recreation programs mid March. Registration numbers started off fairly strong; but then they began to slow as time progressed. Liz added that she noted in her report that registrations this year are at about 50% of a normal year.

### **INTERIM DIRECTOR'S OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

Vice-Chairperson Wells commented that he saw the Community Center after the cleaning and painting and it hasn't looked that good in years. Liz reported that they will begin to prepare Splash Landing for the summer season. She also mentioned that she will be working on a Polco survey that will go out to the citizens to get an idea of what activities the community is interested in this summer. Tim Carroll commended the parks and rec staff on the social media posts throughout the closings. He feels that keeping the community engaged is important. He liked the different activity ideas for families that Meredith posted. He also said that Michelle was doing a good job on Facebook, trying to promote carry-out at Palmer Grill. Tim also asked if our facilities sustained any hail damage during the most recent storm. Liz reported that building maintenance was double checking all the roofs and she has not heard back yet. There was some hail damage to the two vehicles that are kept in the parking lot of the Life Fitness Center. Decker Ploehn added that they have filed a claim with insurance because some city buildings did suffer hail damage. They will have the adjuster look at all of the city's buildings at the time and it will be part of one master claim.

### **UPDATE ON THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY**

Decker Ploehn reported that due to the uncertainty with the city's projected revenue, they are recommending to the committee that we put a hold on the referendum work. He feels we need to see what June and July will bring and it may be best to consider pushing the referendum to March of 2021. The committee will meet one more time, in about 20 days, to determine their recommendation. Tim Carroll concurs with Decker's statements. Tim feels that with the current virus and fiscal situation our country is facing, promoting the referendum would not be a wise endeavor. Steve Wilger added that he does feel we need to let our country and economy recover some before we go for the referendum. Decker added that at this time he and Liz decided to start the process of opening Splash Landing; but there are ongoing, serious conversations if it is a good idea to open Splash Landing. Some concerns are the revenue it will generate because people may be hesitant to go to the pool. If people do go to the pool, how much social distancing will be required? Decker said they will be closely monitoring what the governor and others around the country are doing while considering the opening of Splash Landing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Steve Wilger inquired about approving the Splash Landing Concession contract while we are unsure if it will open for the season. Decker assured that Chris Schadt looked at the contract and that it is okay to proceed with its approval. Chris Schadt mentioned that he would like a sentence added to the contract that states the City of Bettendorf has the right to terminate that agreement at anytime for reasons related to the covid-19 pandemic. Liz Solis-Willis is going to make sure that sentence gets added to the contract.

*On Motion by Commissioner Carroll, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Well to approve the Splash Landing Concessionaire Lease*

RESOLUTION #09-20

RESOLUTION APPROVING LEASE

WITH LOUIS POULIMAS FOR SPLASH LANDING CONCESSIONS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BETTENDORF, IOWA:

To approve the attached lease with Louis Poulimas for Splash Landing Family Aquatic Center summer concessions for 2020.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

Ayes: Carroll, Dryg, Makoben, Wells, Wilger

Nays: None

Brian Hickey added that the purchase of the Turfwerks Mower is going to be delayed due to restriction of funds. He asked that the approval be removed from the Park Board meeting packet. Brian said that the golf course has some older, rough mowers that are well beyond their life span; but he plans to use them another year because he feels money is needed elsewhere. Brian feels money would be better spent on the new putting course.

Vice-Chairperson Wells added that the Greater Bettendorf Community foundation received a donation that allowed them to replace the deck on their building last summer/fall. As soon as weather permits they will stain that deck to extend its life. The second improvement they are planning is bringing fiber optic internet access to the building.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion was made by Chairperson – Larry Makoben to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 pm.**

CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can find a video of this meeting by visiting this website**

**link:** <http://www.bettendorf.org/departments/division.php?structureid=208>

**MINUTES OF THE BETTENDORF PARK BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2020, 4:45pm**

The Bettendorf Park Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 4:45 pm.

Present:                   Chairperson – Larry Makoben  
                              Vice-Chairperson – Don Wells  
                              Commissioner – Tim Carroll  
                              Commissioner – Tom Dryg  
                              Commissioner – Steve Wilger

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

*On Motion by Commissioner Wilger, seconded by Commissioner Carroll to approve the Consent Agenda.*

Ayes: Carroll, Dryg, Makoben, Wells, Wilger

Nays: None

**LEGAL UPDATES**

Chris Schadt added that he will follow up with Brian Hickey about any potential liability issues with Stafford Creek. Chris also added that he doesn't believe there is a legal contract issue with the company that sold us the bridge decking because they were able to rectify the problem by replacing the refused, non-conforming steel with satisfactory steel in a timely manner.

**COMMISSONER UPDATES**

1. Commissioner Carroll – Encourages the residence of Bettendorf to get out and walk. Use our trails or exceptional sidewalks to get fresh air while maintaining social distancing. He feels it will help maintain sanity during this crazy time.
2. Commissioner Dryg – Received and email from the National Parks and Rec Association with CDC guidelines for parks and rec facilities. In that email they suggest that you do not visit the parks if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. Everyone should practice social distancing by staying 6 feet away from others, avoid gathering in groups and do not use the playground equipment as those surfaces are more conducive to passing along the virus. He also thanked the staff, city and parks and recreation department for keeping the trails open because he feels they help to relieve stress, especially since the weather has gotten nicer. Stay safe and healthy
3. Commissioner Wilger – Has seen a number of people on our trails all over town. He feels the pandemic has created an opportunity for the families in our community to get closer. Families spending that quality time in our park system is great to see.
4. Vice-Chairperson Wells – Urged those that have the space in their yard to plant a home garden. That allows for time outside in the sun while helping things grow. Stay safe.
5. Chairperson Makoben – Disc golf is still open. Palmer Hills golf course and grill are also still open. Please get lunch to go from Palmer grill if you have the opportunity. The parks are still open and he is pleased to see a lot of action in our parks.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion was made by Chairperson Makoben to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 pm.**

CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can find a video of this meeting by visiting this website**

**link:**<http://www.bettendorf.org/departments/division.php?structureid=208>