

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020; 12:00 PM

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 226 W 4TH STREET, 12:00P.M.

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

III. Public Comment

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Prospect Park Subcommittee Recommendations-**Action**

B. Nomination of Officer: Discussion

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Riverfront Improvement Commission Liaison

VI. Staff Reports

A. August 2020 Written Staff Report

B. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

C. Park Operations

D. Recreation

E. Revenue Facilities

F. Director's Report

VII. Advisory Time / Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

VIII. Adjournment

IX. Next Meeting Date and Location

City of Davenport  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Department: Parks and Recreation  
Contact Info: Chad Dyson 563-326-7817

**Date**  
**8/4/2020**

Subject:  
Approval of March Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	Description
▯ Cover Memo	March Meeting Minutes

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Parks & Recreation	Rhoads, Jessica	Approved	7/31/2020 - 10:13 AM



**Parks and Recreation Advisory  
March 3rd, 2020 – 12 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Duff, Coiner, Duffy, Lemke, McBride, Peterson, Spratt, Thomas, Trees and Woods

Staff Present: Director Dyson, T. Evans, A. Randerson, B. Tubbs, J. Rhoads

Full meeting video can be found at:

[https://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/get\\_involved/watch\\_videos/parks\\_recreation\\_advisory\\_board\\_meetings](https://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/get_involved/watch_videos/parks_recreation_advisory_board_meetings)

February Meeting Minutes: Motioned by Coiner to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duffy. Minutes approved 9-0

Old Business:

- Park Development Fund, Final Project Slate- Motion by Coiner to approve the final Park Development Fund as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Spratt. Motion passed 9-0

New Business:

- Staff Introductions- Amanda Randerson, Events, Education and Aquatics Supervisor
  - Amanda present a slideshow and verbal report outlining her education, history with the department as well as listed completed projects and future goals.

Staff Report:

- Directors Report- (See written report) Additional information provide by B. Tubbs on behalf of Director Dyson. We have our annual IPRA conference coming up, we invite you all to join us at the exhibit hall. Also as part of this conference they do the best of the best banquet, this year we nominated the QC Rotary Club for their work raising over \$100,000 for the Miracle Field.
- See Written Staff Report



Advisory Time:

- Peterson- The Prospect Park Committee has been meeting and is working on our final report.
- Thomas- Has there been any bids on Mowing Prospect Park Hill? B. Tubbs That maintenance is provided via contract to be weed wacked 4 times a year. Staff is also looking into a local vendor that currently cares for local residents with similar yard terrain.
- Thomas- I received a call about the fencing at tennis courts. IF you get calls the fenced was removed because some residents were using the courts as dog parks. The fence will be replaced but not with a fence, correct? B. Tubbs- That is correct, I have been working with Bill, who came to us from natural resources, to come up with some alternatives like native planting that will catch tennis balls.
- McBride- I know the movie package was just approved, but do you know when we can expect to see our first movie in the park on that system? B. Tubbs we do have a movie planned in May at VV. The funding for this item will not be available until July 1 and are built to order so we maybe able to use in the fall of 2020
- McBride- Any update on River Heritage Park? B. Tubbs, yes, as you know we lost access to this park when the railroad raised the tracks due to flooding. They just submitted plans to the city to gain access to that area as well as the launching area for the Viking cruise line. We know there are going to be a few updates to that plan, so we are working on that. One intersection at a time.
- Coiner- Can you give us a report on your improvement plans at the golf course this year? T. Evans, there will be a lot going on this year: Emeis bunker will be renovated 1/3-1/2 of our bunkers this year, we will finish the restroom projects and staff is working on removing all ash trees from the property. At Duck Creek: We will be working on removing ash trees in this area as well as some older trees, we are also working on installing 10 forward tees and 2 back tees to the course, we will be investing in the lower holes that flood often and close 9 holes for weeks as we recover from flash flooding. No fee increases on green fees, cart rental will be a little higher due to the new carts we are leasing. Cosmic golf will kick off this summer.
- Trees- in reference to the railroad. Will the bike path be raised? B, Tubbs, We know what you know at this point. Staff can look into that and get back to you with more information.

Trees moved to adjourn the meeting, Spratt 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

City of Davenport  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Department: Parks and Recreation  
Contact Info: chad Dyson 563-326-7817

**Date**  
**8/4/2020**

Subject:  
Prospect Park Subcommittee Recommendations-**Action**

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	Description
▢ Cover Memo	Prospect Park Subcommittee Recommendations

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Parks & Recreation	Rhoads, Jessica	Approved	7/31/2020 - 2:10 PM

## **Prospect Park Terrance Recommendations**

### **Terrace Maintenance**

Committee members agree that a mowing proposal submitted by Kymbryl Komplete Kare be pursued. Two businesses were contacted by DP&R director, Chad Dyson, to mow Prospect Park Terrace spring 2020 for evaluation purposes. Both reported 60% of the area is not safe for mowing equipment and would require weed whacking due to the steepness and uneven terrain. Kymbryl submitted a proposal that did not include raking. There were mixed viewpoints on including raking in the services to be provided in the proposal.

- Raking of the terrace may not be necessary if regular mowing as proposed by Kymbryl occurred, the first mowing of the season may be all that would be needed.
- Dry plant material left on the ground and not raked and removed poses a fire hazard; fireworks lit on the terrace July 3 and 4 was noted as an example.
- Allowing cut plant material to remain on the ground to decay would create a healthy environment for soil retention and short grass prairie plant growth over time.
- The terrain, in some areas, does not support prescription mowing. There are distinct terrain, soil and plant conditions on the east, central, and west areas of the slope that require different management practices. Short, historically correct, ground covers, known for “holding” soil that meet these distinct conditions are desired for an overall grass-like appearance.
- Mowing/weed whacking the entire lower hillside does not address landslide concerns and actually contributes landslide conditions. The mowed lower hillside still looks very damaged from the past series of landslides.

### **Drain System Testing Storm Sewer Maintenance**

Testing the efficiency of the French drain system installed in the slope failure area of the terrace in 2009 is needed. Tom Leabhart, DPW, provided information on the French drain system at a committee meeting where there was discussion about using a die test to determine if the drains are functioning as intended. There is visual evidence when walking the slope after it has been mowed that erosion is occurring in the failure area. A properly functioning French drain system and regularly scheduled maintenance of the storm drains is critical to future development plans.

- A lack of storm drain maintenance is considered a contributing factor to the erosion of soil on the slope as debris-clogged drains prevented usual water run-off and detoured the run-off to the slope.
- A storm drain maintenance program and staff assigned to monitor the schedule is recommended.

### **Plant Selection/Management**

Utilize ecological restoration standards for development of an appropriate land management prescription for this site and its beautification to reflect this historical area. This plan shall address plant selections that best fit the terrain and slope maintenance issues and include an 3-5-year evaluation and management plan.

- The naturalization planting in 2009 has shown to be the wrong plant selection for the area based on the historical significance of the area. The naturalization planting has been successful in preventing further land sliding, it's intended purpose.
- The 2009 Prospect Park naturalization planting has not been properly managed/maintained throughout the years.
- A shorter growing vegetation is preferable to the '09 naturalization tall grass plant selection. Utilizing low-growing, deep-rooted prairie grass plants and groundcovers that compliment the upper park area with a height of six- inches or less, and mowed grass where possible for walking and sitting to enjoy the view, is suggested.
- The best practice of burning for “prairie grass” management unfortunately does not fit this park setting. Burning the vegetation is considered a hazard to near-by residences. “Burns” also are a health hazard to those with respiratory issues and leave an unsightly “blackened” slope until new growth begins again.
- Tall prairie grass spoils the viewing of the river, invites trash depository, unwanted wildlife, and a possible security issue for children and others walking on the slope.
- An inventory/identification of plants currently found growing on the slope by an ecological consultant before any mowing is scheduled at the start of the season will create a base line of information for the selection and elimination of plants to best meet the restoration of Prospect Park Terrace.
- Resolution 2020-01, passed unanimously by the Davenport Historic Preservation Commission, encourages the preservation of the historic character when making changes to historic parks and should be adopted in this restoration.

## **Funding Recommendations**

Request that a contract with Kymbryl Komplete Kare be included in the park's department operational budget. Utilize in-house expertise and seek outside sources as needed to develop the ecological restoration component recommended.

## **Resource Support and Funding Information**

### **Locally Recommended Ecological Restoration Contacts**

Public/In-House:

- Davenport Public Works Natural Resources staff -Ecological restoration development
- Justin Bisinger (Scott County Soil and Water Commission) - Soil health to address runoff, site walk-through
- Cassie Druhl (Scott County Soil and Water Commission, Nahant Marsh) - Contact about grants that may be available to the Parks Department for native plant restoration projects in parks

Private:

- Leland Searles - Bank stabilization expert
- Robert Liva - Ecological consultant

## Potential funding sources

Iowa DNR - Wildlife Grant Opportunities <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Wildlife-Diversity-Program/Wildlife-Grant-Opportunities/>

Iowa DNR - R.E.A.P. Program  
<https://www.iowadnr.gov/conservation/reap>

Iowa D.O.T. - Living Roadway Trust Fund  
<https://iowadot.gov/lrtf/Resources>

## Plant selection

Iowa and Illinois University Extension specialists (ground covers appropriate to a historic park expertise)

Jackie Pfaff ICN Pro, [www.midwestgroundcovers.com](http://www.midwestgroundcovers.com), (Office: 847.742.1790)

Kelly R. Allsup, [www.kallsup@illinois.edu](mailto:kallsup@illinois.edu), (webinar of ground covers, sponsored by the Illinois Extension Office)  
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/plants-for-steep-slopes>

A list of 27 site-appropriate native plants are noted at this web site - [Department of Transportation's link \(https://secure.iowadot.gov/lrtf/NativePlantPublic.aspx\)](https://secure.iowadot.gov/lrtf/NativePlantPublic.aspx) and select the following - "search by plant characteristics" > moisture preference > dry, Iowa Range > NE, Sun preference > Sun, Height > 3' > less than or equal.

## Definitions

**Ecological restoration** is the process of assisting the recovery of an **ecosystem** that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Ecosystems are dynamic communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms interacting with their physical environment as a functional unit.

**Restoration Specialist** - Restoration specialists investigate the connections between organisms and the environment in a variety of settings and make recommendations for improvements to reestablish natural ecosystems. This work will typically include assisting in the implementation of those recommendations.

**Simple Ecosystem Definition** - The simplest definition of an ecosystem is that it is a community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment.

The recommendations are respectfully submitted, August 4, 2020, by the members of the Prospect Park subcommittee comprised of Prospect Park residents, Ward 5, and DP&R Advisory Board members.

Judith Belfer, Steve Duffy, Diane Franken, Adriana McBride, Wendy Peterson



City of Davenport  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Department:  
Contact Info:

**Date**

Subject:  
Nomination of Officer: Discussion  
Chair  
Vice Chair  
Secretary  
Riverfront Improvement Commission Liaison

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Parks & Recreation	Rhoads, Jessica	Approved	7/31/2020 - 10:16 AM

City of Davenport  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Department: Parks and Recreation  
Contact Info: Chad Dyson 563-326-7817

**Date**  
**8/4/2020**

Subject:  
August 2020 Written Staff Report

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	Description
▢ Cover Memo	August 2020 Written Staff Report

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer	Action	Date
Parks & Recreation	Rhoads, Jessica	Approved	7/31/2020 - 10:20 AM



## **Park and Recreation Advisory Board**

### **August 4th, 2020**

### **Staff Report**

Mainstreet Landing Taskforce up-date: Tegan Trees  
River Front Improvement Commission up-date: Mike Schertz

#### Notable updates from Staff

##### Park Operations

- Credit Island is a work in-progress – the Disc golf course was finally dry enough to be mowed. It's rough, but we will continue to work on it.
- District format for mowing is going well.
- Looking forward to the new Junge playground being installed mid-August.

##### Recreation

- Summer Youth Corps members are finding ways to be effective even when summer camps and programs have changed drastically. From creating online content, to working on a graduate level monarch butterfly research project, to cataloging museum inventory, our members are having a very productive summer!
- Our sports supervisor, Cole McLeod and his AmeriCorps have partnered with the QC Pickleball Club to host a pickleball clinic on 8/8.
- On July 18<sup>th</sup> the AmeriCorps and many Youth Corps did a service project restoring, beautifying painting project of the windows, doors and overheads at Junior Theatre.

##### Revenue Facilities

- Rivers Edge: Learn to Play Hockey and Learn to Skate Programs starting in August
- Rivers Edge: Concessions currently open on limited schedule focused on higher traffic times
- Rivers Edge: Bathroom Renovation Progressing: Pre-Bid Meeting 7/30



# DAVENPORT

PARKS & RECREATION

- Golf: Operations are running steady with continuing Social Distancing and clubhouse limitations.
- Golf: Duck Creek Golf Flood Renovations of holes #2,#3,#4 was re-organized and put out to bid for late summer/ early fall project.

## Top Staff Challenges

### Park Operations

- This part of the season is always challenging – staff is getting tired and their second wind hasn't quite kicked in yet! But it will get better soon and we will finish the season strong!!! 😊

### Recreation

- Planning for future members and keeping host sites involved in the organization when they are not sure if they are able to accommodate members while COVID continues.
- Youth Fall Soccer & Flag Football #s down due to uncertainty around COVID-19 and a large HS Soccer Tournament cancelled mid-July due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Forecasted concern for fall, on if families have time, money and energy for extracurricular. We will be innovating and reaching out to meet these challenges.

### Revenue Facilities

- Rivers Edge: Starting to hire for fall staff
- Golf: We have had a good summer overall but this time of year we fight many hot season disease and crabgrass weeds. We have had a couple storms to clean up as well.