

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Jackson City Hall
4/11/2023
5:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Attendees: Michael Haeffner, Matt Skaret, Neal Carlson, Luke Ewald, Phil Markman, Mike Gruhlkle, Mike Eddy, Lynne Anderson, Joe Pell (City Council Representative).
- Absent: Michael Gilbert
- Guests: N/A.

Veterans Memorial Update:

- The Veteran Committee was not able to make it, but they did share with Matt they have a concept and are in the process working with an architect on the project; the next step would be looking at fundraising.

Community Gardens:

- The community gardens have folks interested in the gardens; Phil Perro will start working on the garden project; Luke will follow up with Jackson County Sentence to Serve to build three large garden plots.

Kayak Rentals:

- Mike Gruhlkle shared Emmet County, IA purchased a large dog kennel to store their kayaks; they have 18 kayaks in different sizes available for folks to rent; individuals interested in getting a kayak pick up the key for the kennel.
- The Estherville Chamber of Commerce purchased two trailers through iPaddle that allows an individual to rent out a kayak online; folks select the date they want to rent to the kayak, which location they would like rent, and where they plan to return the kayak.
 - The cost for the system is \$55,000 which includes the kayaks, trailer, safety gear, iPaddle account, and other administrative costs.
 - There are some struggles with iPaddle not allowing day of rentals (you must check the kayak out a few days in advance); there are also some struggles with keeping the kayaks clean (the kayaks often get dirty from the river).
 - iPaddlePort is a self-serve sport equipment rental system; visit their website: <https://www.ipaddleport.com/>
- Additional Update: the Estherville, IA Chamber of Commerce Kayak System: Kayaks are available for [rent from the North Trailhead to the 4th Street Bridge Access](#).
 - They have six single kayaks and two tandem kayaks available; each kayak is \$25 per day from 10am-8pm to rent seven days a week; all kayaks must be returned by 830pm or there will be a late charge; all kayaks come with a one size fits all life jacket and paddle;

kayaks must be rented online before 10am the day of rental and can be rented as early as 21 days in advance.

- [River Trail Map is available here.](#)
- Additional Update: [Emmet County Conversation Board and Nature Center](#) Kayak System:
 - The Emmet County Conservation Board has six NuCanoes (1-2 people), six sit-in kayaks (1 person), six sit-on kayaks (1 person) & four stand-up paddle boards (1 person), all available for rent.
 - Renting a kayak is simple, all you do is call the Emmet County Nature Center at 712-867-4422, say you would like to rent a number of our boats, fill out the required paper work, come pick up a key to your designated stall and you are good to go.
 - Rental cost is \$10 for two hours per watercraft; children under 12 years old are free; cost includes lifejackets and paddle for everyone paddling; rules and guidelines must be followed.
- Additional Update: The City of Emmetsburg, IA Kayak System:
 - Kayaks and canoes are available to rent from [The Shores at Five Island](#), located at 14 N Lawler Street in Emmetsburg.
 - Staff will unlock equipment, renters must carry equipment to the water; each kayak is provided with a lifejacket and a paddle; the last rental of the day is 5pm, if rented after 5pm, all kayaks need to be returned by 8pm.
 - Renters must sign a kayak rental agreement to rent the equipment, rental fee is \$25 for three hours for each kayak or canoe; if a renter is under 18 years of age, an adult must sign the agreement; a deposit will be required and will be returned if equipment is returned in the same condition as the time of the time rental (clean of sand, leaves, and debris)—they will accept \$20 cash, a credit card, or ID.

Dog Park Updates:

- Phil shared the fencing is coming, we are in the process of getting scheduled later this month.
- Luke shared updates pertaining to the dog park;
 - [City of Cottage Grove, MN dog park rules](#)- Wag Farms Dog Park.
 - [City of St. Louis Park, MN dog park rules](#)- Cedar Knoll Park and Dakota Park.
 - [City of Fairmont, MN dog park rules](#)-
 - [City of Willmar, MN dog park rules](#)-
- Dog park course materials to look into:
 - [Adventure Playground Systems](#).
 - [Dog Waste Depot offers](#).
 - [Amazon Dog Park Equipment](#).
 - [Dog Park Outfitter](#).
 - [Dog On It Parks](#).
 - Dog waste receptacles for the park.

Park Fee Request:

- Joe shared the concerns brought to him by residents about Ashley Park Shelter House, the cost of \$50 is relatively high from what he is hearing; the other shelter houses in community parks is only \$25.
- Matt shared that folks interested in the shelter rental must read through the waiver; the high cost for the \$50 covers fees for on-call staff who might need to clean the shelter house if there is someone else interested in the shelter; individuals must get the key before 430pm on Friday if they are using the shelter house over the weekend.
- Motion made by Luke, seconded Lynne, to request to amend the Ashley Park Shelter House by giving back \$25 to the renter if the Shelter House is cleaned adequately by the renter similar to the Senior Center Building rental system.

Disc Golf Grand Opening Event:

- Bill has a video prepared on their Facebook; they are gearing up for another great season at the course; he has contacted his team again and am getting everyone fired back up, they are working with Josh Batazzi to get a tournament scheduled for Jackson this year, who hosts quite a few events at different courses/towns, and is very professional; they are hopeful for end of May 2023 to have everything completed for the course, including spring cleanup and issue addressment.
- Items the disc golf course volunteers are looking at for Spring 2023:
 - Tee-pad signs
 - Warning signs for walking path
 - Message board
 - Navigation signs
 - Removal of any downed branches/obstacles for mowing (I did a preliminary sweep and it looks great already)
 - City personnel assessment of water crossings they installed for viability, address any identified deficiencies.

Jackson Garden Club Request:

- Matt shared the Jackson Garden Club would like to have the Ashley Park Shelter House fee waived for their upcoming garden club event on 5/13/2023; this request would violate the current Park Shelter Rental Fee Waiver Policy.
- Lynne is willing to contact Jacque Lange from the Garden Club to let them know they can use the shelter house Monday through Friday; the contact information is 517-513-7022.

Safety First Projects:

- Matt shared there have been updates made the proposed projects;
 - We would like to get a Ten Spin for Sunset Park (this will replace the merry-go-round) and the Climbing Wall in Patterson Park.

- Chin-up Bars are on the docket to get a cost estimate prior to the May 2023 Park Board meeting— one for older kids and one for younger kids; explore adding this to multiple parks when cost estimate is known.
- **Motion** was made by Luke, seconded by Lynne, to add the Ten Spin to Sunset Park and Climbing Wall in Patterson Park, all in favor, motion carries.

Phil/Neal Report:

- The tennis court nets have been placed at Ashley Park.
- Portions of the trails have been cleaned.
- Seasonal park and street help is coming along, there should be enough help for the 2023 spring/summer season.
- The Nelson Creek Trail Kiosk is ready to be installed.
- The Music Ensemble is ready to be installed in Ashley Park.

Next Meeting:

- 5/9/2023 at 530 pm at city hall.

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourn at 631pm.