

## DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

### City Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 – 6:45 PM

**Welcome/Call to Order** – 7:24 PM – Board Members: *Gaard, Bakken, Fuhrmann, Nichols, Kerndt*, City Council Members – *Christopher Miculinich and Steve Zittergruen*, other City Leadership on Zoom, Staff Members: *Travis Goedken and Marc Holtey*

#### **Park Board of Commissioners Discussion on Equestrian Use in City Parks and Possible Action**

*Gaard* shared the different proposal DHPT (2010) Plan and 5 of 8 Plan.

*Kerndt* talked about sticking with the plan that includes trail use in Dunning's Spring/Ice Cave. It has been there in the past. Talked about the process of getting there.

*Nichols* shared about the process of creating that map in 2010. Process got turned down to create maps on the trails. That plan was did not get fully accepted that way.

*Nichols* shared since then (2010), our trail use has exploded. Talked about the higher traffic on trails. Talked about how things have progressed, along with resources. Trail uses change over time. Talked about trails that should be taken off the map. Shared that the Board was close to a solution in Van Peenen. DHPT has done the work. Referenced the saying "Earn your dirt." There is ownership in the process of maintaining and using the trails. Also talked about signage.

*Fuhrmann* shared we need to look at standards and guidelines for trail building. The 5 of 8 plan meets those guidelines. Other trails are too narrow and don't meet the guidelines. That doesn't mean other trails could be proposed. The 5 of 8 plan is "ready to roll."

*Bakken* was hoping to make some decision and move forward. Doesn't feel like there is consensus. Wish they could make a decision, but maybe not a final decision.

*Gaard* shared that he felt they were coming close to first stage of a plan. Added that signage is very important. Wants both groups involved in the signage project. Likes both plans.

*Nichols* made a motion to approve 5 of 8 with the North 40 Extension. *Fuhrmann* 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Discussion on the motion. *Kerndt* shared that both standards. *Gaard* talked about limiting access into Van Peenen. *Fuhrmann* helped clarify property lines into Van Peenen. *Gaard* likes the additional trails.

*Nichols* clarified, "the allowance of 5 of 8 miles plus North 40 access to upper Prairie." *Bakken* feels they should be allowed in Dunning Spring. Ayes: *Fuhrmann, Nichols*. Nays: *Gaard, Bakken, Kerndt*. Motion did not pass.

*Kerndt* made a new motion to include equestrian trail use of 5 of 8 Plan – Fire Road, Pines Connector, Pines East, Pines West, Prairie Loop, Rocky Road, Plus North 40 Extension access and The Luge, Old Randy's and Upper Ice Cave. *Bakken* 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Discussion on motion. *Fuhrmann* feels it is wrong to go against the guidelines. Concerned about safety. *Fuhrmann* asked them if they have been on these trails. *Nichols* shared about a new process. A lot of things to work things to work out. Talked about dates, etc. *Fuhrmann* talked about potential issues with the plan down the road. *Bakken* shared those riders be required to keep the trails clean. Ayes: *Gaard, Bakken, Kerndt*. Nays: *Fuhrmann and Nicols*. Motion passed.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on FY'26 Budget**

*Holtey* shared the proposed budget for FY'26 for Parks, Recreation, Campground and Pool. Also shared the proposed Capital Improvement Projects and the funding for those projects.

The Board looked through the proposed budget for the departments, as well as the Capital Improvement Project Summary sheet.

*Nichols* asked for clarification on funding sources for the Dahlen Project. *Holtey* shared that he carried through the FY'25 funding sources for the project and that he would clarify the Donations/Memorial Fund line item, as well as the contribution from Hotel/Motel funds.

*Fuhrmann* commented on the original intention of Hotel/Motel funds for trail use and specifically the Trout Run Trail. There is a timeline for trail resurfacing and using those funds.

*Fuhrmann* also shared about the additional funding needed for the new trail plan (infrastructure, parking and upgrading trails, signage).

*Fuhrmann* questioned where the funding would come from. Asked how much this would cost.

*Nichols* shared some additional thoughts on additional costs for the new trail plan.

*Gaard* brought up the omission of Splashpad project in FY'26 Capital Project list. *Holtey* shared the need for additional amenities and facilities needed beyond the Splashpad. *Fuhrmann* and *Nichols* share additional considerations regarding the Splashpad project. *Holtey* about the need for restrooms on-site at Wold Park (proposed location of Splashpad). Also shared we could look into funding for planning and design.

*Nichols* made a motion to approve the budget (pending clarification on the Dahlen project funds), *Kerndt 2<sup>nd</sup>*. Ayes: 4. Nays: 0. (Bakken was not present). Motion passed.

**Adjourn** – *Gaard* made a motion to adjourn. *Kerndt 2<sup>nd</sup>*. Ayes: 4. Nays: 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Holtey". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Marc Holtey