

**Due to the COVID-19 concerns and social distancing recommendations, a virtual meeting was offered.*

Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes
November 16, 2023

1. Roll Call

Present: Rasmussen, Collison, Robinson, Karwoski, Lyman, Simpson, and Williams

Absent: None.

City Officials Present: City Administrator Marketa Oliver, Communications and Events Coordinator Nicole Van Houten

2. Call to Order and Declaring a Quorum

Called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 6:01 PM

3. Abstentions declared

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Collison seconded by Willaims to approve October 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Vote on Motion 7-0. Motion carried.

a. Parks & Rec 23-8: October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

5. Perfecting and Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Robinson seconded by Rasmussen to approve November 16, 2023 meeting agenda. Vote on Motion 7-0. Motion carried.

6. Guests requesting to address the Parks Board

a. Ava's Garden at Renaud Ridge Park Enhancement

Present: Joni Hutchinson

Representing: Living Ava's Way Foundation

Purpose: Ava's Butterfly Garden was created in her memory in 2018. It was done in collaboration with the city and the We XL 4H club. It is a beautiful addition to our community and the environment. Living Ava's Way Foundation's goal is to continually maintain, and improve Ava's Garden while encouraging volunteerism and betterment throughout the community.

Ava's Garden provides numerous

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opportunities in support of environmental and pollinator protection.

The park/garden is visited by many patrons regularly. Ava's Butterfly Garden has twelve 5-star reviews and has been viewed on Google thousands of times. The enhancements being proposed will create a more welcoming and accessible space for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy safely and comfortably. Joni shared her proposal with the Parks and Recreation Board for some updates. The updates include a newly expanded and paved walking path, a new bench, and the addition of inclusive play features. This will allow for ease of maintenance for mowing and safer access, including wider paths for wheelchair access and stroller-friendly.

Living Ava's Way Foundation is honoring Ava's ever-lasting legacy of love. Joni once read, "The only way to beat death is through life, and we give life through HOPE." That is why Joni created Ava's foundation to give HOPE! Even though cancer affected Ava for 3532 out of 4382 days she was alive, she never let it define her. Her last wishes centered on helping others and that is how we celebrate AVA. This foundation is the heart and soul of her legacy. Ava wanted to make the world a better place, through small yet impactful changes. Her dream touched people across the globe, and Living Ava's Way Foundation cultivates that spirit in her honor.

Timeline: 2023 Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board approval. 2023-2024 fundraising, grant writing, and project planning for an upgraded walking path. Begin collaboration with We XL 4H club to order and install new bench. Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 Phase One: removal of the current walking path and repave walking path while also expanding the path into the park. 2025-2026

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continue fundraising for inclusive playground equipment. 2027 site prep and installation of playground equipment.

Motion by Karwoski seconded by Robinson to recommend to City Council to support the proposed enhancements to Ava's Garden in Renaud Ridge Park Vote on Motion 7-0. Motion carried.

b. Primitive Camping Option at Lake Petocka

Present: Jeff Cook

Representing: Self (Local resident)

Purpose: Following up on his presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board on August 17, 2023, regarding the board considering primitive camping at Lake Petocka. According to the meeting minutes, the board requested more research regarding specific rules/guidelines to ensure proper use of the designated space for primitive camping in public parks. Signs will be necessary to define the camp area. Per state restrictions, fire pits can be allowed for cooking purposes.

Jeff restated that this would primarily be an enhanced amenity for Chichaqua Valley Trail users, so the location would need to be near the trail, have access to restrooms (although primitive campers do not expect this feature), and be aware that Baxter and Mingo have both added or are adding primitive camping options for the trail users also. Jeff asked if the Lake Petocka restrooms are open year-round. Oliver will follow-up with the Public Works Director to verify.

Lyman and Williams do not view the northwest corner of Lake Petocka Park as a viable option. Perhaps the section of land east of the Pawtocka Dog Park would be a better location, but a lot of that land is owned by the county and not the city.

Next steps: Discuss with Public Works how to begin the process of adding primitive camping

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to Lake Petocka. Amenities will include: 2-3 camping sites, with a fire ring, picnic table, trash receptacle, and rule and regulations sign. Van Houten will seek rules/regulations from other communities that have primitive camping sites (examples: Colfax and Baxter).

New Topic: There are three interpretive signs at the Bondurant Regional Trailhead and Jeff was a parks and recreation board member who assisted with the planning of the trailhead. As events have been added to this park space it may be better to move the signs as they obstruct people's view of the shelter area where concerts and other activities are held in this space. The Fire Station is going to move to its new facility, so when will the old building be converted to a community center? Oliver stated the intent would be to schedule improvements to the building in fall 2025/spring 2026.

Motion by Robinson seconded by Williams to move the interpretive signs before Summer Fest 2024 and allow city staff to decide the best location. Vote on Motion 7-0. Motion carried.

7. Action Items

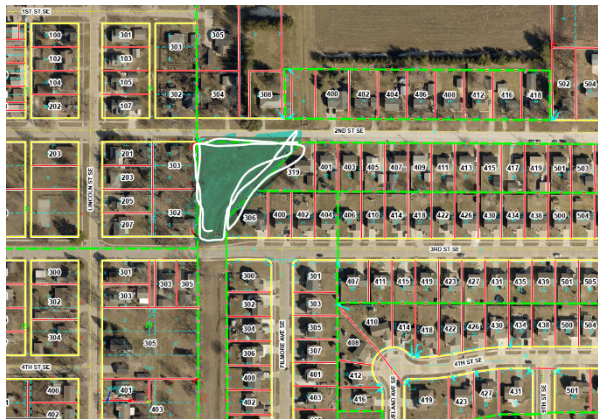
None.

8. Discussion Items -

a. Heritage Park

The Bondurant Community Foundation hired a consultant to design the 2015/2016 Heritage Park Trail (Linear Park) Master Plan. The park includes 0.63 acres of undeveloped park space. The original proposal included a trail with an arboretum and designated educational spaces. City staff will reach out to the Bondurant Community Foundation to find out more about the plan. Jeff Cook attended the recent City Council meeting on Monday, November 6, and suggested a basketball court be considered within the undeveloped space in Heritage Park. This information will be given to the Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) consultants working on the updated Parks, Trails, and Greenspace Master Plan.

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b. Arts, Culture, and Wayfinding Update

Present: John Aceto

Representing: Group Creative

Purpose: John Aceto shared an update on the wayfinding package for the Art, Culture, and Wayfinding Master Plan. John is a part of the Group Creative team and had an opportunity to provide some site design and wayfinding planning for the City. Common Studio's was the artist selected for the wayfinding. John has been working with Common Studio's to adjust their initial proposal to integrate into the proper wayfinding scales with the best visibility standards and maintain the aesthetic the artist is seeking to achieve. The final wayfinding guidelines will include specific sites including the benches and grates. Other sites will have a sign, but a curved dimension will be eliminated and not all signs will incorporate benches and grates. Thoughtful sites will be selected which will best accommodate this feature. All signs will have a tree, some signs will have punched-out lettering, others will have vinyl lettering, and others will have exhibit lighting. The signs will have a frost footing. The specific tree species have been selected by Group Creative and Common Studios based on the demographic of Iowa and the most resilient diversified tree options. The final tree plan will be shared with RDG Planning and Design, who are working

on the City Park Improvements.

Rasmussen stated that it seems like the example presented does not show the sign and tree as a cohesive piece. How can we make it more cohesive? Spacing will be important to convey these as a cohesive piece. Karwoski asked if the artist could share a mock-up of the plan to share openly and drum up excitement in the community.

Rasmussen is interested in seeing a mock-up of a Gateway Sign with exhibit lighting - will they include addresses with business names in spaces that have multiple businesses with multiple addresses? Van Houten is concerned about the caliber of the tree trunk with the wayfinding grate or climbable ladder-style signs. Robinson stated that signs with ladder-style features will need to be addressed and not allow these signs to be climbable.

Rasmussen and Williams were not fond of yellow as the only branded color for the signs and wondered if there was a way to provide a color scheme based on the style of the sign or designate a section of the community.

Simpson inquired about the longevity of the vinyl applied to the signs and what maintenance requirements there were.

Simpson also inquired about adding a QR code to the signs to view maps and more information for users to be guided.

Next Steps: John will come back with a mock-up of the Civic Campus sign.

Consideration will be given to more varying colors. Some of the sign scaling will be adjusted for the safety of trail users and to prevent climbability. The final plan will include features to drum up excitement in the community based on what is to come.

c. City Park update

During the City Council meeting Monday, November 6 an open discussion transpired about saving the maple tree and resizing the basketball court, or keeping the basketball court as is, and removing the tree. The consultant will hire an arborist who may look at the viability of relocating the maple tree. The life expectancy of this tree will be a very

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important factor if budgeting is allowed. The City Council requested that larger caliper trees be used in the tree design as new trees are planted in the park. The basketball court is well-used and a popular feature that cannot be resized - the size will remain as is and the court will remain in the proposed space.

9. Reports and Comments:

a. Communications and Events Coordinator
Event reports were reviewed.

b. City Administrator
The City is partnering with the Landus Developer to establish a master plan of the area. Bonding money will be used for the BRSC parking lot, sports courts in partnership with the school, Park Side trail connection, and the Landus Master Plan.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Collison seconded by Rasmussen to adjourn at 7:47 PM.
Vote on Motion 7-0. Motion carried.

Nicole Van Houten
Communications and Events Coordinator

ATTEST:

Dennis Lyman
Board Chair