



**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2025, 7:00pm**

Present: Shelly Simpson, Brian Motley, Guy Goldsmith, Tim Hamer, Richard Grugin, Nicholas Arnold, Gwen Johnson and Jeremy Parrish.

1. Call to Order: Chair Grugin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Approval of Minutes: Gwen motioned to approve Nov 6 meeting minutes: Nick - seconded:
Approved via unanimous consent.

3. Public Comments: No public comments to report.

4. Reports:

a. Parks Report—Guy Goldsmith

- Guy reported that he and Josh have been going over a lot of building maintenance items. Josh met with DNR regarding generator emissions as the city has numerous generators.
- Parks team has been conducting maintenance on equipment, snow removal equipment in use already and completed landscaping, mowing, leaf pick up and ball diamond work for the season. Landscaping takes about 4 weeks with everyone on hand and was completed by Thanksgiving this year.
- Tim was dedicated employee chosen to operate new mower to cut down evasive willows around city ponds.
- Boundary markers for parking lots and sidewalks were installed to help with snow removal. New areas to clear snow include the Hy-Vee Center @ Centennial Park - lot and sidewalks and NL Road trail which drifts a lot.
- Parks staff attended ornamental and turf pesticide education class, Nov 12 at the JC Extension office to maintain licensing.
- Guy attended many meetings with Shive-Hattery, including Phase 2 – Centennial Splashpad design & budget details and future Quail Ridge Park loop trail.
- Richard inquired on how many miles of trail does City have? Guy & Tim answered roughly 23 miles.
- Gwen inquired on new idea of holding a marathon, utilizing all our trails.
- Guy mentioned Quail Ridge Park improvements include interior trail and parking lot extension but cost estimates are coming in high. Park lot extension will be first, followed by trail if impacted by funds. Guy mentioned that Quail Ridge Park is most popular option for graduation party requests.
- Guy mentioned making progress on FY27 budget and CIP projects. Nick inquired about impact of local option sales tax. Guy stated 50% revenue earmarked for property tax relief, while rest will impact budgets. Guy mentioned park prioritization, while Shelly stated aging facility needs.
- Guy is planning on proposing new playground at Community Center. Gwen inquired about Fox Run Park upgrades which dropped in priority due to new park to west, but many kids utilize the basketball court.
- Richard inquired on any regulations of new parkland with new development. No set terms, Guy stated this is why we have the City Park Plan to identify areas of need when land becomes a possibility. North side parkland remains in litigation and working on Deerfield Park expansion. No discussion of development on east side of NL Road near Dog Park currently. Guy explained that City receives detention areas, not much suited/usable park land from developers.

- Jeremy mentioned he had seen information on Off-street parking during weather alerts, would like this to be publicly accessible. Sites include Quail Ridge parking lot, Owen Skelly Field lot and North Liberty Community Center.

b. Recreation/Pool Report—Shelly Simpson

- Shelly reported that month included work on Winter Spring Activity Guide and preparing for registration.
- Spencer Meacham was hired as daytime custodian position. Mark, Jeff and Spencer will rotate weekend coverage.
- Shelly served as a panelist for an IPRA event in Des Moines.
- Shelly has been working on FY 27 budget and mentioned moving Indoor Pool Filter replacement as high priority due to leak in one of the filters.
- Programming information such as database numbers rising. Brian added lots of kids in our co-op leagues with NL & Tiffin numbers rising, while CV numbers seem to stagnate.
- Brian mentioned new UV Unit replaced on Indoor Pool.
- Shelly reported Jonahtan's Pee Wee Programs & Camps and youth wrestling going well. Brian mentioned Indoor Soccer continues to expand, 4 days a week, year-round opportunities.
- Shelly mentioned special events this month included tickets to an Iowa Men's BB game and Matt Meseck has done a great job with the Turkey Medallion Hunt, a fun, community event with many clues, location & found inquiries.
- Gwen thanked staff for setting up the tour of the Hy-Vee Center. She is amazed at such a stunning facility & park.
- Nick asked about the snow fence near Centennial Park and if it withstood first storms. It did collapse but was reset by Parks crew.
- Jeremy inquired about a past program with Pinseekers that his son participated in. Brian stated not offered this year due to insurance constraints by individual leading program.
- Richard inquired about fitness equipment. Brian stated it is holding up even though it has been a couple of years since spending \$\$ on new equipment.
- Richard mentioned how busy the Community Center was on his way to meeting and posed a question on consideration of a second site. Shelly stated IPRA standards says 1 Community Center for every 20,000 residents. Nick stated we do have a lot of non-residents using our facility. We will see if there are any impacts with local facility development in Tiffin and Coralville.
- Richard inquired about officials and staffing to Brian. He stated officials are always hard to get, especially for the more competitive and adult leagues. We do well in getting local athletes to help with recreational program needs. Shelly reported that staffing in department is good, both FT and PT levels. Brian added our low turnover is beneficial as well.

5. Upcoming Events

- Simpson mentioned Breakfast with Santa & Holiday Vendor Fair is scheduled for Saturday.
- Matt Meseck "Santa's Workshop" will be open beginning Dec 10.

6. Community Input: Nothing to report.

7. Old Business:

- Gwen mentioned having a great time at Library's Candyland event.
- Richard mentioned great holiday décor; trees & decorations in lobby, gazebo – thanks to Matt Meseck.
- Brian mentioned starting Jan 3rd youth basketball on Saturdays using all gymnasiums in area.
- Jeremy inquired about quorum issues and if we could utilize zoom or phone call-in if need arises. Shelly will look into options.

8. Next Meeting:
 - No meeting on January 1, 2026
 - Next meeting - Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7:00pm.
9. Adjournment: Jeremy motioned to adjourn. Gwen seconded. None opposed.
 - Meeting ended at 7:37pm.