

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, October 29, 2018
5:00 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course

PRESENT: Matthew Garrett, Robin Kennicker, Richard Kirkendall, Rebecca Kuhle, Robert McCoy and Jennifer Tigges

ABSENT: Ray Werner

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Kroger, Steve Fehsal and Eileen Trimble, and Marie Ware via phone

OTHERS PRESENT: Former City Councilman Kevin Lynch; Ryan Peterson from RDG Planning; Jesús Aviles from Dubuque Racing Association; Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager; and Maureen Quann, Assistant City Attorney

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE CHAPLAIN SCHMITT ISLAND IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DUBUQUE AND DUBUQUE RACING ASSOCIATION, LTD; VOTE:

Kevin Lynch reminded commissioners that the last time they made a presentation to Park and Recreation Commission it was a placemaking plan for Chaplain Schmitt Island master plan and the commission recommended approval of the plan to the City Council. The DRA committee considered feedback from different groups and meetings, talked about the various projects in the plan and prioritized which ones they wanted to do first.

Ryan Peterson of RDG Planning & Design is the lead consultant on the veterans' memorial pond project. RDG is partnering with WHKS and was hired by Dubuque Racing Association (DRA) to design the project. The DRA is funding the entire \$3.2 million project.

The partners focused on the pond area directly north of the ice arena and south of the highway. They wanted to tie together, enhance and expand the existing memorials to create a world class memorial that honors all those who have served and sacrificed for our nation and also honor Father Aloysius Schmitt and his sacrifices.

Mr. Peterson presented a concept slideshow. A video showing current elements and future concepts was also shown. Plans include cleaning and stabilizing the pond area; a new limestone sign wall and entry plaza; pond overlook; new plaza that connects the existing memorials; waterfall and colorful lighting; new memorial to Chaplain Schmitt called "Skyward" providing visitors with a vicarious experience of Chaplain Schmitt's final moments as he rescued sailors on the USS Oklahoma during Pearl Harbor.

Commissioners asked if a new rest room would be available; will the memorial be ADA compliant; had anyone contacted Schmitt family; will the memorial be pet friendly; and will the storage shed next to the memorial be relocated.

- They considered a new rest room building but the cost would have taken a large part of the budget and there is an accessible rest room east of the ice arena.
- The memorial will be ADA compliant.
- Mr. Lynch said they had met with a group dedicated to preserving Chaplain Schmitt's memory and they are fully aware of the proposed plan.
- The plan advocates for pets in design but whether they are allowed or not would be related to city ordinance and City Council;
- RDG looked at relocating the shed but have no funds and no location was ever chosen. They may be able to screen around it.

Commissioner Tigges asked about upkeep. Assistant City Attorney Maureen Quann said it depends on what would need to be done and the cost – which is covered in the proposed agreement on pages two and four. Mr. Aviles said the DRA has set aside \$40,000 for upkeep.

Copies of the proposed agreement were sent to commissioners as part of the agenda packet and may be found as part of the original minutes.

It was moved by Garrett, seconded by Kennicker, to recommend approval of the Chaplain Schmitt Island Improvement Agreement By and Between the City of Dubuque and Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. Unanimous.

ADJOURN; VOTE:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Kennicker, to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Unanimous.