Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those present:
- Andy Cison, Chairperson
- Sharon Ornquist, Secretary
- Charlene Whitbred-Hemmingson
- Cindy Domeier
- Micah Bender
- Chelsie Bowker

Also present:
- Tony Flandrich, Public Works Liaison
- Bruce Zenner, Council Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:
Motion by Ornquist, second by Whitbred-Hemmingson to approve the March 14, 2019 minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

PARK UPDATE:

A. Whitbred Park
   - Hockey Rink Improvements
     The Commission asked Tony Flandrich for advice on the installation of a liner, painted asphalt or concrete for the hockey rink. He recommended with the current condition of the hockey rink, the best approach would be to bring in reclaimed material for the base, no need for a liner. He suggested that the commission look at Armstrong School for an example.

     It was the consensus of the Commission to ask the St. Paul Park Newport Lions to reallocate the funds for the liner to be applied to the Garden Shed.

     - Hockey Rink Improvements—Eagle Scout Project
       Boy Scouts will be recruiting volunteers to scrape, paint, replace boards, and build a scoreboard at the hockey rink on June 8 & 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; bring your own brush and scraper. Char will solicit food donations to feed the volunteers. The Scouts have 20 gallons of paint on hand, purchased from Bartl Hardware. The rink will be pressured washed on Sunday, June 2 at 8 a.m.

     - Batting Cages
       The Commission discussed the estimated cost of $25,000 to move the batting cages to the proposed location. The Commission strongly felt that the Athletic Association should pay for the costs of relocation and that city funds could be best spent elsewhere.
It was the consensus of the Commission that city funds not be used for the relocation of batting cages.

- New vision for Whitbred Park
  The installation of the water treatment facility is planned for 2019. The Commission discussed what this park will look like once the facility is built. The Commission discussed whether the improvements for this park should be slated for 2020. After much discussion, the Commission would like to create a new vision for this park—sports theme park (hockey, batting cages, skate park, soccer fields, etc.). The Commission would like to solicit suggestions from the Athletic Association and Washington County School District (partial property owner) to create this new vision with an improvement goal for 2021.

B. Lions Levee
   Lions Levee Park is closed due to flooding. The ramp and dock will be reconstructed this year after the water recedes. The reconstruction will take approximately two weeks with an anticipated reopening date of July 4.

C. Heritage Park
   Tony Flandrich, Public Works Department Liaison, presented to the commission the revised sidewalk/concrete edging plan for Heritage Park. The placement of benches will be determined later. Due to weather, the removal of the equipment has been delayed; new play equipment is proposed to be installed June 10.

   The Commission to approve the revised sidewalk/concrete edging plan as presented by consensus.

D. Little Free Library—Axelrod Park
   Tony Flandrich, Public Works Department Liaison, informed the Commission that Girl Scout Troop 57688 and Brownies 57688 would like to install and maintain a Little Free Library at Axelrod Park (401 Pullman Avenue) with a 5-year commitment.

   The Commission approved this commitment by consensus.

E. Parks 5-year Improvement Plan
   The Commission inquired about the 5-year plan as to which parks are slated for 2019 and 2020.

AGENDA ITEM:

A. Garden Shed
   Char will get an updated price for garden shed from Hastings that includes delivery and set up. Once a revised quote has been received, the Commission will ask the St. Paul Park Lions Club for permission to reallocate funds to
Garden Shed and ask the City Council to fund the difference.

B. Identify donation requests for 2019
The Commission identified the following needs for 2019:
- Garden equipment (rakes, hoses, sprayers, etc.)
- Glow Sticks for Heritage Days ($200)
- Glow Sticks for sledding event ($200)
- Mulch around garden beds
- Dirt for new garden beds

C. Art & Garden Event—June 1, 2019
The Commission has set the time for this event from 1 – 4 p.m. Set up will begin at Noon. Masons will serve hotdogs. Park Place will provide food for volunteers. Craft item will be peanut butter covered pinecones and Home Depot workshop kits. The Girl Scouts are unable to assist in this event. Commission to consider the sale of bird houses and old street signs. Further discussion will be had at the next meeting. It was requested that the Co-Chair send a letter to Home Depot for their past donations and request for workshop kits for this year.

D. Bunco Night Recap—March 22, 2019
The final Bunco Night was well attended with 22 participants. This event raised $220. Every participant went home with a prize.

E. Weed Pulling event at Riverside Park—May 9, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.
The Commission plans to participate in this event.

It was the consensus of the Commission to reschedule the May 9, 2019 meeting to May 2, 2019 at 7 p.m.

F. Pollinator Friendly Patch Update
Pheasants Forever would like to set up a date to burn and plant the hillside along Hastings Avenue. The Commission has set the date of the burn for May 7 and the planting for May 18 in the morning; volunteers needed.

G. Movie-in-the-Park—Tabled

H. Carbone’s Pizzeria Fundraiser—April 15
Fundraiser set for April 15, 11 AM to Close. Commission Members should wear their red shirt and be a hostess at any time during operating hours.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Council Liaison Zenner inquired if the Parks & Recreation Commission is interested in planning, organizing, and running the kids tent on Sunday afternoon during Heritage Days. Also, there is an organization wishing to host a 5K run Sunday morning and was wondering if the Parks & Recreation Commission is interested in helping. The
Commission would be more interested if the run linked the parks. More discussion to be had at the May meeting.

Boy Scouts will be hosting their 9th annual Cardboard City at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Friday, May 10. The public is welcome to participate in this event by sleeping in a cardboard box (bring your own box) or donating toiletry items for the food shelf. Donations will be accepted from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting—May 2, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted May 1, 2019 by Sharon Ornquist, Secretary

Important Dates:

- April 15—Carbone’s Fundraising Event
- May 7—Burning of hill
- May 9—Weed Pulling Event at Riverside Park (6 PM)
- May 11—Installation of Garden Bed (Boy Scout Project)
- May 18—Planting of pollinator friendly patch
- June 1—Art and Garden Event (1 – 4 PM)
- June 2—Pressure wash hockey rink (8 AM)
- June 8 & 9—Hockey rink repair (9 AM – 3 PM), bring your own brush and scraper.

Agenda Items:

- Finalize dates for Movie-in-the-Park (June, July, August)
- Finalize details for Art & Garden Event—June 1
- Discuss Heritage Days activities—Kids Tent and 5K run
- Parks 5-year Improvement Plan
- Grand Re-opening—Heritage Park
- Grand Re-opening—Lions Levee
- Dedication of Little Free Library at Axelrod Park