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

Those present:
- Andy Cison, Chairperson
- Sharon Ornquist, Secretary
- Charlene Whitbred-Hemmingson
- Chelsie Bowker
- Cindy Domeier
- Micah Bender (arriving at 7:02 p.m.)

Also present:
- Bruce Zenner—Council Liaison
- Jeff Dionisopoulos, Public Works Supervisor

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**
Motion by Domeier, second by Bowker to approve the April 11, 2019 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

A. **Movies in the Park**
   - June 8—Toy Story 3
   - July 13—Scooby Doo
   - August 24—Frozen
   - Mason’s will serve refreshments for a small fee
   - Char is unavailable on July 13

B. **Pollinator Patch**—the hill is slated to be burned May 7. Pheasants Forever will drop off 25 haybales for the replanting of the hill set for May 18.

C. **Community Garden**—the preparation of the garden beds is planned for May 18 along with the planting of the hillside. Both Chelsie and Char will not be available.

D. **Art & Garden Event**—June 1, 2019 | 1-4 PM
   - Send out invite to Vendors
   - The materials for the two new beds were delivered to the Boy Scouts two weeks ago. No definitive installation date has been given.
   - Need to collect pinecones for craft event.
   - Solicit donation for cookies.

E. **Garden Shed**
   - Need to obtain an updated quote from company in Hastings.
   - Calculate donations received to date.
• Write letter to Lions Club authorizing the reallocation of funds for hockey liner to garden shed.
• Ask City to fund remaining balance.

F. Hockey Rink Improvement—The repairs and painting of the hockey rink is set for June 8 & 9. The hockey rink will be power washed on June 2; will need hose connection to hydrant on Friday prior.

G. Heritage Days—The Heritage Days Committee proposed to the Commission to host a 5K Fun Run during Heritage Days. After much discussion, the Commission agreed to host a 5K Fun Walk/Run during Heritage Days as a fundraising event in lieu of hosting the kids tent. The Commission decided to keep the event fun and easy with a $20 entry fee.

PARKS UPDATE:

Public Works Supervisor Dionisopoulos updated the Commission on the following:

A. St. Paul Park Garden Club proposal for City Hall entrance
   The St. Paul Park Garden Club prepared six landscaping designs for the entrance to City Hall. The Commission agreed that the two flowering crab trees next to the building should be removed. The Commission narrowed the designs choices to Proposal #1 and #6. Based on the plant donations, the Garden Club will select either design.

B. Emerald Ash Borer
   The Emerald Ash Borer inventory has been completed. There are approximately 123 trees proposed to be removed from parks and rights-of-way; these trees are rated “0”. Trees that have been rated #2-3 will be treated. The question asked of the commission was should these trees be replaced? After a brief discussion, the commission felt that the trees in the parks are a great amenity by providing shade to those using the park.

   It was the consensus of the Commission to replace the trees with a 1:1 ratio.

C. Heritage Park Improvement
   The play equipment has been removed, concrete work has begun, sidewalk and the regrading of the path on the back hill will be done soon. Anticipated installation of equipment is June 10-14, woodchips to be installed June 14, irrigation completed June 22 and final grade and seed/sod set for June 30.

D. Lions Levee Park
   Lions Levee Park is still closed due to flooding. Once the water subsides, repairs can be made to the boat launch.

E. 5-year Capital Outlay
Jeff presented to the Commission his 5-year Capital Outlay for the Parks.

Improvements slated for 2020 are as follows:
- Lower level of Heritage Park
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Batting Cages
- Removal of play equipment at Whitbred Memorial Park
- Assessment of sports courts

The Commission noticed that the 5-year Capital Outlay did not include any kind of replacement of the play equipment at Whitbred Memorial Park. The Commission would like to create a new vision for this park with a sports theme and was hoping the improvements would be slated for 2020. The Commission would also like to solicit suggestions from the Athletic Association and Washington County School District to create a new vision with an improvement goal of 2021.

The Commission was admittedly opposed to the removal of the equipment to make way for batting cages. The Commission felt if city funds were used to relocate the batting cages, then the use of the cages should be open to all residents of city, not just to the Athletic Association.

Motion by Ornquist, second by Cison to recommend to the City Council that the relocation of the batting cages and the removal of the play equipment (if the play equipment has been determined safe) at Whitbred Memorial Park be moved to the year 2021 so that a more thoughtful plan/vision can be prepared jointly with the Athletic Association. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Ornquist, second by Cison to invite the Athletic Association to our next meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

It was suggested that Whitbred Memorial Park would be a good location for a skate park. The Commission would like to obtain designs proposals for a skate park to see if it is feasible.

As part of the redesign of the lower level of Heritage Park, Public Works Supervisor is hiring a firm to conduct a sport court assessment for the redesign which will be presented to the Commission.

The Commission felt the residents and the Parks & Recreation Commission should have input as to what should be placed in the park rather than an outside firm making suggestions. It was the consensus of the Commission to create a survey monkey to solicit ideas from residents with results to be shared at our next meeting. Ornquist noted that a survey soliciting ideas from residents was conducted during Heritage Days several years ago.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None
Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting—June 13, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted May 16, 2019 by Commission Secretary Ornquist

Important Dates:
- 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 & Garden Event (1 – 4 PM)
- June 2—Hockey Rink powered washed (Need hose connection to hydrant on Friday prior)
- June 8 & 9—Hockey rink repair (9 AM – 3 PM), bring your own brush and scraper

Future Agenda Items:
- Invite Athletic Association to June meeting to discuss vision for Whitbred Memorial Park.
- Grand Re-opening—Heritage Park
- Grand Re-opening—Lions Levee Park
- Dedication of the Little Free Library at Axelrod Park