

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**  
**Earlham Park & Recreation Board Meeting**  
**July 26, 2022**

The Earlham Park & Recreation Board met on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Earlham City Hall. Clerk Hibbs called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Chris Caskey, Craig Furstenuau, Jason Hammen, Charlie Lenze, Lance Ridgely, Adam Smith. Also present: Clerk Hibbs

1. Approval of Agenda  
**Motion by Caskey, second by Hammen, to approve agenda.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
  
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (two-year term).  
Smith was nominated to serve as Chairperson. Caskey volunteered to serve as Vice-Chairperson.  
**Motion by Lenze, second by Hammen, to approve Smith as Chairperson, and Caskey-as Vice-Chairperson.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
  
3. Consider request from Bruce Thome to use Earlham baseball fields for Mid Iowa Baseball League adult games.  
Caskey and Hammen stated the field he is inquiring about is the high school field, and the high school has not interest in letting an outside organization use their field.  
**Motion by Caskey, second by Lenze, to allow the use of the high school baseball field by the Mid Iowa Baseball League.**  
**Roll: No – unanimous. Motion fails.**
  
4. Discussion and possible action on request for upgrade on Rec Park (restrooms, concessions stand, foul ball nets) – Gentry Smith  
Gentry Smith presented a list of upgrades that she and a group of citizens would like to see at the Rec Park, including: upgrade to restrooms, including a baby changing station; and concession stand improvements. Other items mentioned were: more storage; walking path around park; splash pad; installation of foul ball nets; dog park; ga-ga ball pit. Gentry said the Mayor stated the City could help with some smaller items this year FY22-23 (restrooms, concession stand, nets), and possibly budget for more in FY23-24. She mentioned they applied for a grant from GMCCF in 2021 but did not get it. Possibility of other grants, fundraising, donations? She also mentioned Gary told her J. Petticort would possibly be willing to contribute some funds towards a park project. Discussion on nets – size, type. Look at other grants.  
  
Discussion about Gendler Park and possible utilization of the facility. Little League needs another field. Possibly a sign at the intersection of I Ave and 365th pointing to Gendler. Many citizens don't even realize there is a park out there – including several board members. Discussion on trail from City out to park, with funding possibly from Destination Iowa Grant. Board agreed "sweat equity" could be used at Gendler. Hammen suggested they form a sub-committee to work on long term goals for the Rec Park. Caskey, Hammen, Smith said they would be on this committee. They asked Gentry Smith be join as a consultant to help on this since she has already done a lot of work gathering information. She will get some more information, put together numbers and set up meeting for this sub-committee.
  
5. Update on possible Earlham Swimming Pool renovations.  
Hibbs informed Board there has been discussion within City Staff, the Mayor, and Council regarding possible renovation of the city pool. City has received GMCCF grant for \$25,365 as well as a Prairie Meadows grant for \$20,000. The cost of project would be approximately \$200,000. Remaining funds could come from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) monies the city received.

6. Discussion and possible action on request to transport handicapped individuals to and from Little League baseball fields per car or golf cart.

Hibbs stated the Council asked the P&R Board to discuss this issue. Discuss/suggestions included:

- Run “shuttle”?
- Let golf carts go back and park if they have handicapped sticker?
- Path isn’t meant for vehicle/car traffic.
- How to regulate? Signage? Designated parking in outfield? Sign saying handicapped golf cart parking only.
- Transport there and take cart back to parking lot?
- No side-by-sides

Recommendation – golf carts with handicapped stickers only with parking outside of fencing. Signage for parking at entrance of park and at each field.

7. Public Works requests regarding Rec Park

Hibbs read a report from Public Works Supervisor Coffman. City cleaned up most of waste from around fields that was by north fence, little league dug out and high school softball fields. In future if there is a need for help hauling off materials, please call for help. Old tires and football equipment need to be cleared out in the north east corner need to be disposed of. Could high school do a better job of weed control around their field and batting cages. Youth football should put equipment up against fence. Caskey address the mowing issue. Discussion on what is used and what is junk.

8. Comments from sports representatives

Lance Ridgely - Soccer field grass needs help promoting healthy growth especially around the goals. Needs to be “plugged”. Need help/suggestions from Gary. Soccer club should be able to support that financially. First aeration, then eventually planting fescue.

9. Other – next meeting. Caskey said subcommittee needs to meet. They will come up with a time and let me know

10. Adjourn

Motion by Caskey, second by Hammen, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Adam Smith, Chairperson