

APPROVED
DERBY PARK AND URBAN FORESTRY BOARD MINUTES
November 10, 2016

Call to Order: 11:00 A. M.

Roll Call:	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
	Seth Berg	Jason Griffin
	Jennifer Brown	Michael Neel
	David Peebler	
	Dave Foster	
	Rick Dame	

Also in attendance were Robert Mendoza, Public Works Director; Steve White, Public Works Assistant Director; Michael Day, Parks Superintendent; and Amy Smith, Public Works Coordinator

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: David Peebler moved to approve the minutes of July 14, 2016.

Second: Rick Dame, second.

Vote: All yea, motion carried unanimous.

Old Business:

Central Park Development Update: November 11 is the final checklist walk through with National Builders. There are a few flood plain issues that are being fixed in order to be certified by FEMA. Two small areas of turf on the playground are being redone. All artwork on the animal wall will be done by December 16, weather permitting.

Warren Riverview Park Development Update: The project has not yet been sent out to bid. There is an addition to the scope of work for sound at the Lodge. Plan to have the bid out by the end of the year or first of 2017. The project, once started, should take approximately one year to complete. Park Superintendent Mike Day will be the project manager.

Tree Lighting Event: The event is November 17 at 6 p.m. at Madison Avenue Central Park. We expect a big turnout!

New Business:

Central Park playground management/signage: A clip from the October 25th Council Meeting was shown to the board regarding safety concerns at the park. A discussion was held regarding possible solutions.

Discussion regarding signage, control areas and general site use. The board members have experienced many of the same situations that the public is facing as it pertains to attitude and overzealous youth.

They all agree that signage will help but it must be directed at the correct areas to have the necessary impact. This is primarily the playground. With the large age range of children and young adults vying for time to use the playground, instruction and direction should be visible.

Discussion regarding use of bicycles, skateboards, roller skates and other wheeled equipment. The board agrees that we should not ban these items from use in the park, along pathways or even in the parking lot, as the park is designed to meet the needs of all users. The board does agree that all wheeled equipment such as skateboards, bicycles, skateboards and roller skates should be banned specifically from the playground area and ADA surfaces. This ban does not include strollers, wheelchairs or other health related mobility devices.

Staff discussed physical changes to certain areas of the park; the concrete benches, stone benches, stone caps of the amphitheater, playground and hand rails for the staircases at the water wall. Seth Berg, our resident skater states these new attractions are not available anywhere else and kids and young adults will use it if it is available. The only way to hinder that is to make adjustments to the fixtures so that they are not useable for their equipment. Staff is identifying products that will interrupt the usability of skate boards and bikes but not detract from the look and usability of the park by other patrons.

The board also discussed changes to the handrails at the top of the slide to hinder children from walking the tops of the stone walls. Staff will work with Derby Steel Technologies to extend the rail system and block this access.

Staff is working on signage for the park and playground. We have identified signage for the stone walls and are in the process of marking weight limits for the swings. Changes to the handrails will begin soon that will interrupt the long smooth rails. Video recording in process signs will be installed to notify patrons of the devices and added security measures.

Motion to adjourn: David Foster moved to adjourn the November 10 PUF meeting.

Second: Seth Berg second.

Vote: All yea, motion carried unanimous.

End.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Smith
Public Works Coordinator,

Michael Neel



Chairman