

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
City of Mount Vernon
June 16, 2015 - City Hall

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board met on June 16, 2015 at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Mike Cranston, Catherine Poduska and Scott Rose. Also in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Siders and Erin Foster of ASAC. Absent: Lori Boren and Kelli Chapman.

1. Approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Cranston, seconded by Poduska to approve agenda. Carried all.
2. Approval of the Minutes from May 19, 2015 meeting. Cranston noted that item #2 of the minutes have the motion being made by Boren and seconded by Boren. It should be changed to motion by Boren, seconded by Poduska. Motion made by Poduska, seconded by Cranston to approve minutes with noted changes. Carried all.
3. Open Forum: Each citizen is limited to 5 minutes.
4. Directors Report - May – June 2015. On May 31st there were over 140 volunteers involved in the United Methodist Church Day of Service doing projects throughout the City. There are 32 kids enrolled in Blastball. Siders presented to Council that the board had been discussing Tobacco Free Parks. Archery camp had 40 kids enrolled, which is the maximum enrollment. There was a slow start to the pool opening due to weather. The new pump is working well. The filter at the pump is clogging up quickly and is needing to be cleaned out often. Siders also updated Council on the status of the Master Parks Plan and how it will interact with the Comprehensive Plan.
5. Presentation and Discussion regarding Tobacco Free Parks with ASAC representative, Erin Foster. Siders said that a lot of communities are going this route. Mount Vernon currently has a “smoke free” resolution, but is not “tobacco free”. He said part of the problem with enforcing it is that there is not enough signage in the parks. He is working on finding funding for additional funding. Erin Foster with ASAC said that they have a very large tobacco grant that is funded by Iowa Department of Public Health to do tobacco specific prevention in the 5 county area that ASAC reaches. They in no way shape or form can lobby for ordinance changes and can and cannot say certain things. They provide all of the information and allow the cities to ask questions based on the research done and provide any assistance that they can give to help move forward. They cannot lobby

but can help write an ordinance. The current resolution that Mount Vernon has is the bottom tier of any tobacco related resolution that a business can have. As more is being learned about other tobacco products, they have to keep moving forward. Parks promote health, well-being, activity for youth and so on. Tobacco waste is generally the most common form of litter and has been classified as toxic. Toxins can be especially harmful to young lungs. Vaporizers also contain toxins. Several activities have been done in other counties as well as Mount Vernon to show the amount of waste in the parks. There would be three tiers to a proposed ordinance: smoke free, tobacco free and nicotine free (which would address the use of alternative nicotine products including vaporizers). If the City passed a nicotine free ordinance it would include smoke and tobacco products as well. Some things that should be taken into consideration before any action is taken are: does the community have the support of law enforcement; does City council support the effort; what is the plan for difficult situations; what is the level of community support? A grace period would be a good idea in order to transition the community into the changes and strategic sign placement is important.

Poduska would like to see a survey sent out to the community to see if there is positive feedback, as well as seeing where Council would stand and law enforcement. Foster said that several surrounding communities are currently discussing adopting an ordinance on this. No action was taken.

6. Discussion regarding Master Parks Plan. Siders provided board members with an updated document showing changes/additions. Comprehensive Plan information was added and there was discussion on how the two plans would interact. Board members went over the revised document page by page and discussed changes that were needed. Siders will make revisions to the document and discussion will continue at the next meeting.
7. Subcommittee reports (Parks, Capital, Pool, Programming, and Volunteer). Siders updated board members on the capital improvements plan for upcoming fiscal years.
8. Old Business.
9. New Business. The date of the next meeting will be July 28, 2015.
10. Motion made by Cranston, seconded by Poduska to adjourn the meeting, the time being 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell, Deputy Clerk.