

**Ankeny Park Board Meeting
February 27, 2023**

Meeting Minutes:

Call to Order: Chairperson Aaron Bradshaw called the Park Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Jared Baldwin was not in attendance. All other board members were present. Nick Lenox, Todd Schenck and Leslie Reab represented City of Ankeny staff.

Approval of Minutes: The January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion from Josh Craighead and a second from Chad Hade. All approved.

New Board Member – Katie Maki: Bradshaw introduced and welcomed newly appointed Park Board member, Katie Maki. Maki has resided in Ankeny for 11 years and works as a Project Engineer for Ryan Companies.

Iowa DNR Fisheries Presentation: Tyler Stubbs and Lewis Bruce, Fishing Biologists with Iowa DNR, gave an informative presentation on DNR's partnership with Ankeny in which they help create fish habitat and improve water quality of over 75 acres of public water within the City. Stubbs presented information on stocking and fish management. Bass, Bluegill and Channel Catfish are the primary species in Ankeny ponds, and are stocked in combination to provide good fishing. Stubbs stated the City of Ankeny is a leader across the State of Iowa in providing excellent fishing opportunities and will be awarded an Aquatic Conservation Achievement Award on March 1 presented by the Iowa Wildlife and American Fisheries Society.

Bruce informed board members that data of recreational use on multiple City basins is collected through user surveys and the use of trail cameras. In 2020 DNR placed nine trail cameras in seven pond locations, Camden Woods, Cherry Glen, Hillside, Horizon, Prairie Ridge Sports Complex and Sawgrass. The trail cameras use time-lapsed photography which is used to collect user trip length, peak use periods, angler demographics and fishing trends year-round. Bruce stated the trail cameras have captured over 11,000 angler trips with an angler count of 10,888. After the presentation, Tyler and Lewis answered questions and invited board members to contact them if interested in participating in one of DNR's routine fisheries samplings.

Director's Report: Lenox gave a brief update on Des Moines Street Park construction and informed board members of the Iowa Senate Bill SF 181, a measure fixing a state mistake. The new law retroactively reduces the residential rollback for the fiscal year 2024 budget. The rollback impacts Ankeny's budget by approximately a \$1.2 million reduction in revenue to the City, and a number of changes will take place as a result, including the elimination of hiring a new Recreation Coordinator for the department.

Chairperson's Report – Aaron Bradshaw: No report.

Board Member Reports:

- Church: Nichoel stated she will be attending the Iowa DNR/Iowa Chapter of American Fisheries Society Conference during which Ankeny will receive the Aquatic Conservation Achievement Award.
- Craighead: No report.
- Hade: No report.
- Maki: No report.
- Smith: No report.

Adjournment: Chad Hade moved meeting adjournment and Nichoel Church provided the second. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes Reported By: Leslie Reab, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant