


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-530	Meeting:	December 6, 2021
	Agenda Item:	60	Roll Call:	21-1856
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend approval of proposed amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 74 Parks and Recreation regarding various changes that reflect the advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department, update specific fees for use of facilities and programs, and other various changes.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of changes to Municipal Code Chapter 74, including but not limited to:

Article IV. Facilities

- Multiple Sections: Incorporating the approved name changes:
 - Greater Des Moines Softball Park to George Davis Softball Park
 - Prairie Meadows Stage to Prairie Meadows Riviera Amphitheater at Riverview Park
- Section 74-93: Addition of prohibiting feeding of birds, waterfowl and other animals
- Section 74-99: Addition of allowing dogs under the control of authorized personnel to assist with the control and management of waterfowl
- Section 74-100: Clarification that the Prairie Meadows Riviera Amphitheater at Riverview Park may remain open until 12:00 midnight
- Multiple Sections: Clarification that, where applicable, senior rates begin at age 60 and over, except as related to golf fees where the senior rate remains as-is at 62 and over

Article V. Fees

- Changes to existing fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - Section 74-176(b): Ball diamonds
 - Section 74-176(c): James W. Cownie Soccer Park
 - Section 74-181: Golf green fees and limited modifications to badge fees
 - Section 74-182(a)(2)c.: Lilac Arboretum Plaza at Ewing Park
 - Section 74-182(a)(3)a.: Enclosed shelter fees
 - Section 74-182(a)(9)b.: Additional trash cans for rentals
 - Section 74-182(a)(11): Robert D. Ray Asian Garden
 - Section 74-183(a)(1): Admission fees for aquatic centers and pools
 - Section 74-183(a)(3), (4) and (5): Pool rentals for exclusive use, athletic programs, practices, and swim meets
 - Section 74-184: Brenton Skating Plaza admission, skate rental, ice rink rental for exclusive use and rental during the non-skating season
 - Section 74-186(b): Hub Spot
 - Section 74-188(b): Special lighting on facilities equipped with programmable LED features

- Addition of new fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - Section 74-183(a)(2): Optional addition of a season pass to the Heritage Carousel of Des Moines at Union Park with the purchase of any season swim pass

Article VI. Mobile Food Venders in Designated Parks

- Addition of Evelyn K. Davis Park and Riverview Park to the parks that may accommodate food trucks

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the proposed fee changes will have minimal impacts to the revenue received by the City.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Chapter 74 of the Des Moines Municipal Code is dedicated to the organization and management of the City parks and recreation facilities and outlines the role of the Parks and Recreation Board, the authority of the Parks and Recreation Director, operation of City parks and recreation facilities and the fees for use of facilities and programs.
- In addition to Chapter 74, parks and recreation facility elements can also be found in Chapter 18 – Animals, Chapter 34 – Cemeteries, Chapter 114 – Traffic and Vehicles and Chapter 130 – Waterways, but the proposed changes covered by this action are limited to Chapter 74.
- All changes to the City Municipal Code must be approved by the Des Moines City Council.
- The majority of substantive changes proposed to Chapter 74 reflect advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department since the previous most recent update in 2019. These are described in succinct detail below. Additional minor changes are proposed to improve formatting, consistency and clarity, but do not modify the meaning of the existing ordinance language.
- Elected leaders should use this Communication as a guide to the changes, but still read in detail the proposed modifications shown with “track changes” on in the copy of the Municipal Code Chapter 74 Parks and Recreation provided in their meeting packet. Substantive changes include:

Article IV. Facilities

- *Multiple Sections: Incorporating the approved name changes*
 - *Greater Des Moines Softball Park to George Davis Softball Park* – This change is consistent with the formally approved name change adopted earlier in 2021.
 - *Prairie Meadows Stage to Prairie Meadows Riviera Amphitheater at Riverview Park* – This change is consistent with the formally approved name change adopted earlier in 2021.
- *Section 74-93: Addition of prohibiting feeding of birds, waterfowl and other animals* – This change will help support implementation of the proposed Goose Management Plan.

- *Section 74-99: Addition of allowing dogs under the control of authorized personnel to assist with the control and management of waterfowl* – This change will help support implementation of the proposed Goose Management Plan.
- *Section 74-100: Clarification that the Prairie Meadows Riviera Amphitheater at Riverview Park may remain open until 12:00 midnight* – This change will make the hours of this facility consistent with equivalent others within the parks system.
- *Multiple Sections: Clarification that, where applicable, senior rates begin at age 60 and over, except as related to golf fees where the senior rate remains as-is at 62 and over* – This change brings consistency to the age of a senior throughout Chapter 74 to help staff, elected leaders and the public understand when applicable splits in rates take effect, with one (1) exception: no changes were made this year to the senior age related to golf fees, but will be considered in future modifications.

Article V. Fees

- Changes to existing fees are proposed for the following facilities in most cases to balance increased operating expenses with revenue and to simplify some fee structures that over time became overly layered:
 - *Section 74-176(b): Ball diamonds* – Proposed change modifies and simplifies fees charged for both tournaments and practices as shown in the fee chart, clarifies that practice constitutes one (1) team only per field and makes clear which facilities require reservations versus those that may be used on a first-come-first served basis if no reservation is in place.
 - *Section 74-176(c): James W. Cownie Soccer Park* – Proposed change modifies and simplifies fees charged to be one (1) hourly fee of \$75 keeping the option for night lighting at \$30 and makes clear the facility requires reservations.
 - *Section 74-181: Golf green fees and limited modifications to badge fees* – Proposed changes modify the green fees and specific badge fees as proposed by the golf course operator and approved by the Golf Advisory Committee.
 - *Section 74-182(a)(2)c.: Lilac Arboretum Plaza at Ewing Park* – Proposed change increases the hourly rental fee to \$50, but removes the minimum of three (3) hours previously required.
 - *Section 74-182(a)(3)a.: Enclosed shelter fees* – Proposed change modifies and simplifies fees charged. Proposed change also adds New Year’s Day and day after Thanksgiving to the now six (6) days that these shelters cannot be rented, due to difficulty staffing for openings, closings, and cleanings.
 - *Section 74-182(a)(9)b.: Additional trash cans for rentals* – Proposed change modifies this fee from \$10 to \$15 and eliminates the option for additional picnic tables.
 - *Section 74-182(a)(11): Robert D. Ray Asian Garden* – Proposed change removes this facility from the list as it will be transitioned to the Botanical Garden.
 - *Section 74-183(a)(1): Admission fees for aquatic centers and pools* – Proposed change increases the daily entrance fee for youth and adults by \$1 and adds a new senior rate providing a \$2 discount from the adult rate. Children under three (3) years of age remain free.

- *Section 74-183(a)(3), (4) and (5): Pool rentals for exclusive use and for athletic programs and swim meets* – Proposed change modifies and simplifies fees charged to be one (1) rate of \$175 per hour for exclusive use, \$75 per hour for athletic practices and \$500 per day for swim meets. All fees include the provision of lifeguards.
- *Section 74-184: Brenton Skating Plaza admission, skate rental, ice rink rental for exclusive use and rental during the non-skating season* – Proposed change to admission does not affect the current rates that have been in place since 2017, but does modify the 2022 and 2023 rates to increase incrementally to keep pace with operating expenses. Proposed change to ice rink rental simplifies to a standard \$250 per hour, with a 2-hour minimum. Proposed change to non-skating season rental rates reduces by half as the canopy will not be available.
- *Section 74-186(b): Hub Spot* – Proposed change clarifies indoor versus outdoor rentals and updates the outdated fees.
- *Section 74-188(b): Special lighting on facilities equipped with programmable LED features* – Proposed change adds two (2) new facilities to the offerings, no fee change.
- Addition of new fees are proposed for the following facilities:
 - *Section 74-183(a)(2): Optional addition of a season pass to the Heritage Carousel of Des Moines at Union Park with the purchase of any season swim pass* – Proposed change would allow season swim pass purchases to also purchase a season pass to ride the Heritage Carousel for an additional \$25.

Article VI. Mobile Food Venders in Designated Parks

- *Addition of Evelyn K. Davis Park and Riverview Park to the parks that may accommodate food trucks* – Proposed change adds two (2) parks to the existing list of facilities where food trucks are permitted to accommodate uses that is in demand and to allow each Ward to have opportunities for such use.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 5, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1244](#)

Action: [Enacting](#) a new Chapter 74 of the Municipal Code regarding Parks and Recreation Board and Parks and Recreation Department and Director; regulating conduct for the use of parks and recreation facilities; fees for rental and use of parks facilities and programs and mobile food vendors. Moved by Gatto that this ordinance be considered and given second vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 23, 2021

Resolution Number: 21-081

Action: Motion by Potter to approve Chapter 74 updates. Second by Facto. Motion carried.

Board: Parks and Recreation Board - Golf Advisory Committee

Date: August 19, 2021

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion by Pugh to approve modifications to golf fees. Second by Talarico. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- City Council consideration of the second and third readings of ordinance changes.

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