

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

01-174

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

APRIL 16, 2001

SUBJECT:

ESTABLISHMENT
OF PARK
OPERATING HOURS

Approve recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board to change Code Section 74.101-Park Facility Hours. This recommendation includes empowering the Park and Recreation Board to establish park and recreation facility hours and authorizing the Park and Recreation Director the authority to adjust park hours for one season. Furthermore, this ordinance addresses other operating hour practices which have not been previously reflected in the ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT -

TYPE:

N/A

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

Approve recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board to change Code Section 74.101-Park Facility Hours, authorizing the Park and Recreation Board to establish all park and recreation facility hours. This recommendation also requests that the Park and Recreation Director be authorized to adjust park hours for one season, unless otherwise directed by the Park and Recreation Board.

BACKGROUND -

On March 27, 2001, the Park and Recreation Board approved recommending to the City Council to amend the City Code, Section 74-101-Park Facility Hours.

The Park and Recreation Board is recommending that the City Council empower the Park and Recreation Board with the authority to establish park and recreation facility hours. The Park and Recreation Department would like to experiment with operating

Gray's Lake Park as the only extended-hour accessible park in Des Moines' park system. With the significant improvements and lighted trail, this facility will attract visitors early in the morning for their daily workouts and fishing. The evenings will be attractive to visitors wanting to enjoy a sunset or moonlit walk. In addition, this facility will provide a benefit to individuals who work non-traditional hours.

The types of uses will be monitored with field staff making recommendations to the Park and Recreation administrative staff on operational changes. Security will be paramount in evaluating the optimal customer service hours. However, the Board is recommending that the ordinance be changed to allow the Park and Recreation Department to operate Gray's Lake on an extended-hour basis with the potential to provide limited access 20 hours a day.

It is anticipated that the gate to the back parking lot will be secured between 10:00 p.m. and midnight. This security measure will keep vehicular traffic toward the more visible areas of the park off Fleur Drive at both the southwest and northwest entrances.

In preparing the Code changes after Park and Recreation Board approval, it was discovered that there is a need to update the ordinance to address four other current practices. These are the addition of lights at the Birdland Tennis courts, the addition of the Simon Estes Amphitheater, Birdland Marina, and golf course clubhouses.
