

IPRA Today

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BRIDGING THE GAPS IN COUNCIL BLUFFS By: Ron Hopp, IPRA Spring Conference Chairperson

It's not just a theme for the Spring Conference: it's a theme for the whole community.

Council Bluffs, which is part of the largest metro area in Iowa, is also the Iowa home of the Missouri River Pedestrian Bridge. This span will be the longest pedestrian bridge in existence that bridges two states and is scheduled to open in November of this year.

With this one-of-a-kind architectural structure as the highlight of the city, Council Bluffs is using the opportunity to make "Bridging the Gaps" the central theme of the 2008 IPRA Spring Conference, scheduled for March 30-April 2.

"We're thrilled to be hosting the conference again," said Ronald Hopp, Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Director and 2008 Conference Chair. "It's exciting to welcome delegates to the community at such an opportune time, with such a unique facility poised to open. It's a great symbol of the many innovations that have taken place in the community in the years since the conference was last hosted here, as well as our plans for the future."

2008 conference delegates will be treated to an outstanding conference that is filled with unique sessions and socials. "Bridging the Gaps" is the unifying theme for the conference, recognizing not only the bridge itself, but the need to address gaps in funding, staffing, culture, preservation and other key parks and recreation issues.

The conference will be held at the Mid-America Center, a 54,000 square foot facility that includes an ice-skating rink (home to the Omaha Lancers) that is also a 9,000 concert space and a full convention center with exhibit hall, ballrooms and classrooms. The bulk of the conference will be held in the Convention Center area, which is adjacent to the conference's hotel partner, Country Inn and Suites.

The Mid-America Center is located in one of the main entertainment areas in the city, with easy access to all three Council Bluffs casinos, restaurants, a movie theatre, bike trails and Iowa's only Bass Pro Shops, which will be the site of the Monday night social.

The planning committee has made a real effort to create some distinctive sessions and social activities, taking advantage of both the conference location and some of the new park and recreation facilities we've developed over the past several years," said Hopp. Among the many sessions offered will be a double session on the planning and development of the Missouri River Pedestrian Bridge; a double session on parks master planning that will include a

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INTRODUCING...

Brad Barker

The Vinton Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Brad Barker as the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation who began his duties on January 2. Brad is originally from Ames. He received his Bachelor Degree in Sports Management from Iowa State University and just recently completed his Masters Degree in Park and Recreation Management from the University of Illinois.

Brad brings a lot of excitement and some great experiences to the department. "Brad will be a great asset to the department, the community and to our profession," states Duane Randall, Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Vinton.



Brad Barker (above), Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Vinton, and Chad Weir (below), Parks and Recreation Superintendent for Marshalltown Parks and Recreation, are new faces in the IPRA organization.



Chad Weir

Chad Weir is the new Parks and Recreation Superintendent for the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department. Born and raised in Marshalltown, Chad graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1997. Chad started his Parks and Recreation "career" in high school as a lifeguard and supervisor for the local city pools. He continued working various part-time jobs for the Parks and Recreation as well as participating in numerous Park and Recreation activities. Chad is a 1999 graduate of Marshalltown Community College and received his Bachelors of Science degree in Finance from Buena Vista University in 2007.

A lifelong Marshalltown resident, Chad has most recently worked for United Bank & Trust as a Personal Banker and Branch Manager. He also worked for Hy-Vee, Sports Page Sporting Goods and The Marshall County Sun as a sports reporter.

Chad is married to Hannah, and they have an incredible five year old son, Tristan. Chad enjoys playing and watching all sports, especially golf. He is active in the Marshalltown Community Theater, Trinity Lutheran Church, sings with the Pride of Iowa Barbershop Chorus in Des Moines (his father directs the chorus), announces the Marshalltown Community College men's and women's basketball games, is an avid Cyclone fan, one of five living generations in his family and enjoys every minute with his family and friends.



Local Spot Shot competitions can be offered until March 24. Please notify the state office of the date of your event by calling 641.236.3917 or e-mailing:

cshutts@pcpartner.net to obtain ribbons and score sheets.

Thanks for supporting this major IPRA youth event!

Job Opportunities



Recreation Director Grinnell Recreation Department

The City of Grinnell (population 9,300) seeks a Recreation Director to manage and lead the activities of the parks and recreation departments. East central Iowa historic college community included in 100 best places to live in America. Starting salary range is \$50,000 to \$55,000 with aggressive step increases plus a generous benefit package. The ideal candidate would have five years experience in a related field and a degree in leisure studies, recreation, physical education or a related program.

Reporting directly to the City Manager, the Recreation Director, working closely with the Park and Recreation Board, is responsible for directing and implementing a year-round, city wide recreation program including the management of the swimming pool and all city facility rentals. This position will manage all full-time and part-time department employees, oversee all aspects of the department budget, keep current and assist with the implementation of the master parks and recreation plan, develop a network of citizen volunteers, develop a community relations program, plans and prepares for all department capital improvements, prepares, reports and makes recommendations regarding facilities and programs to the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Board, manages all aspects of the employee wellness and safety programs and manages the local access channel.

Pre-employment physical including drug testing and extensive background.

For application, call 641.236.2600. Send application and resume with cover letter to Russell Behrens, City Manager, 927 Fourth Avenue, Grinnell, IA, 50112. Applications will be reviewed starting Monday, February 11, 2008. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

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Executive Director “Active” Okoboji

Seeking dynamic person to lead new recreation coalition to create, promote and facilitate recreation activities in and around the Iowa Great Lakes. The qualified individual will have three to five years or pertinent experience to include: fundraising, marketing, promoting, volunteer supervision, and programming. This person must be able to collaborate with local organizations and community leaders. Excellent verbal and written communication skills required. Must be computer literate. Web development, college degree and non-profit organization experience preferred. Please submit resume, letter of interest, and references, no later than January 25 or until position is filled to Di Hirt at dfhirt@peacestation.com.

2008 IPRA Membership Directory Updates

Copies of the 2008 IPRA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide were mailed to all paid members in early January. Please make the following modifications to your copy:

- Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation new administrative office address: 3601 42nd Street, NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402, for the following staff members
 - Julianne Sina, 319.286.5734
 - Jeff Kraayenbrink, 319.286.5739
 - Dave Smith, 319.286.5768
 - June Schumacher
- Liz Solis—name change to **Liz Solis-Willis**
- **Mary Lee Malmberg** (correct spelling of last name); correct phone number: 319.398.5009
- **Mitch Aalbers** is the correct spelling of new Orange City Parks and Recreation Director
- Note that Orange City Parks and Recreation has one Splash Pad (not two) and they have a Fitness Center
- Ambroz Recreation Center, 2000 Mt. Vernon Rd., SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403, for the following Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation staff members:
 - Gail Loskill, 319.286.5742
 - Michelle Bostwick 319.286.5736
 - Carolyn Hamilton, 319.286.5737
 - Jessica Plueger, 319.286.5741
 - Chris Clime, 319.286.5743
 - Blake Nedved, 319.286.5698
 - Angie Turner, 319.286.5744
 - Teresa White, 319.286.5699
 - Rob Wagner, 319.286.5799
 - Dave Bowser, 319.286.5798
- **Bob** Modersohn (not Bert) serves on the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Board
- **Cory Shearer's** correct title is Public Works for the City of Huxley; Huxley's 3C's Fitness is actually 3C's Recreation Center; Huxley's population is 4,000; part-time staff numbers 15

IOWA FOUNDATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Celebrating 20 Years with Renewed Vision

By: Marie Ware, President, Iowa Foundation For Parks and Recreation Board

The Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation was founded in November of 1987. That's 20 years ago last November. I can, and I am sure others of you also, remember the early IPRA Board conversations about the establishment of a Foundation and the later discussion that ended up with IPRA giving a \$10,000 donation to the Foundation in 1990.

The Foundation's purposes are:

1. To promote and improve leisure opportunities and amenities in Iowa,
2. To further the course of research and development in all areas of leisure in Iowa,
3. To provide scholarships on a nondiscriminatory basis to unrelated worthy students enrolled in professional development programs in parks and recreation or related field of study at post-secondary institutions of higher learning,
4. To facilitate the availability of assistance to leisure organizations in Iowa, and
5. To promote leisure awareness among the general public of Iowa.

It is very appropriate at this 20-year anniversary to reflect on where we have been. 20-year highlights include:

- Assisting with the printing of the history of IPRA's first 50 years, 1989
- \$2500 donation to Ahrens Institute for NRPA headquarters
- Awarding one scholarship for each of 11 years. Started at \$600 in 1997, raised to \$750 in 2003, raised to \$1000 in 2007
- Leading \$50,000 fundraising effort in 1999 & 2000 for renovation of a home to become the permanent office for IPRA including \$8,000 maintenance fund
- Successfully sponsoring 2004 and 2006 Foundation Golf Tournament netting profit of \$10,675

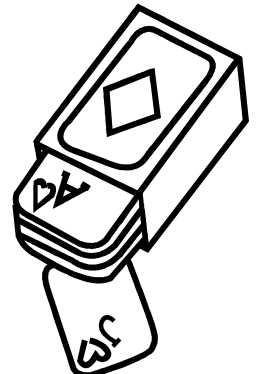
The Foundation Board has met several times in the past few months to talk about the future. Many thanks go to the IPRA members and Foundation Board members who took part in these visioning sessions. The Foundation has a renewed commitment to its purposes. Additional members have now been added to the Board to insure the continuing success of the Foundation over time. John Hagener, IPRA President, has been added as an ex officio member of the Foundation Board to assure communication between IPRA and the Foundation.

Continuing discussions are now taking place regarding a work plan for the Foundation. Topics such as outreach to small communities, day summits, scholarships for attending Conferences and Workshops, marketing parks and recreation at trade shows, including the Iowa League of Cities and more are being investigated. The Foundation Board is working toward establishment of initiatives for the 20th year and in the future.

Initiatives take money. The Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation is a 501c3 organization. A Texas Hold-Em Tournament is being sponsored by the Foundation at the Spring Conference in Council Bluffs on March 30. All proceeds from this tournament will be used toward the 2008 initiatives of the Foundation. The Foundation Golf Outing will be held later this spring. Your support of these events will make the initiatives happen and strengthen parks and recreation in Iowa. Come and join us for these two events! By supporting the events, you support parks and recreation.

Watch for more details on the initiatives of the Foundation in future IPRA newsletters. If you have any questions regarding the Foundation, please feel free to contact Marie Ware at 641.672.1662 or marie.ware@mahaska.org.

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Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation

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Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Board Members are listed below:

Marie Ware, President

Terry Trueblood, Vice President

Ward Stubbs, Secretary

Gil Spence, Treasurer

Pete Downs, Doug Bylund,

Chris Page, Ron Hopp,

Sherri Proud, Jerry Gazaway,

Duane Randall, Mark Jennings,

Don Tripp, Steve Grimes and

Angie Cole

Photo of state office building or scholarship golf outing participant(s)

Bridging the Gaps

(Continued from Page 1)

site visit and interactive planning, a session on public art, which has had a huge impact on Council Bluffs in the last two years and off-site sessions that will include tours of the multi-sport Council Bluffs Recreation Complex, newly renovated Bayliss Park and brand new Trolley Park.

Sunday afternoon, delegates will be able to participate in the traditional golf outing at Dodge Riverside Golf Club. The Opening Social, which welcomes everyone, will be held at the Golf Club at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday night, with the Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament to benefit the Iowa Parks and Recreation Foundation to start immediately after. The Monday night social will include dinner and an "Amazing Race"-style team scavenger hunt at Bass Pro Shops, with challenges that include using outdoor recreation tools, archery, fishing, electronic navigation and more, with prizes.

A room block has been set at Country Inn and Suites. The block will be available through March 17. Book early: the toll free number is 888.201.1746. Council Bluffs will also once again host a charter bus, for those crossing the state who would rather leave the driving to someone else. Mike Moran will take reservations, with the bus anticipated to depart from Davenport and make stops in Iowa City, Grinnell and Des Moines. He can be reached at 319.356.5100 or mike-moran@iowa-city.org.

The delegate brochure is nearly complete, and it will be posted to the IPRA web site prior to being mailed out in early February. "Mark your calendars," said Hopp. "We're looking forward to seeing everyone here."



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For more information on the Iowa Amateur Softball

Association and its programs, contact us at 641.236.5766 or visit our website at

www.softball.org/iowa

LIVE—WORK—PLAY

City of Bettendorf Receives Iowa Department of Transportation Grant Award


By Steve Grimes, Director, Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department

Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley's office has notified the City of Bettendorf that it has received a grant through the Scenic Byways Program for its Mississippi Riverfront Trail project. This is a Federal Highway program that is disbursed through the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The grant is for a total of \$106,291. We are very excited to receive this award which was the second largest grant awarded in the state of Iowa during 2007.

Using the theme, "Live, Work and Play", three sites will be developed including interpretive kiosks about the history and settlements related to the River (live), River related industry (work), and River related recreation (play). The City of Bettendorf Recreation Department will have lead responsibility for the project. The largest site, Mississippi Point (at the end of 42nd Street South and the Mississippi River), will include three covered picnic tables,



a river observation deck and binoculars, potable water, waterless restroom and parking, accessible from the Great River Road and on the Mississippi River Trail. The two remaining interpretive sites will be down river spaced 4,800 feet apart, one along the levee and the next at the end of 17th Street and the Mississippi River, on the trail and 800 feet from the Great River Road (US 67 or State Street). The project benefits the byway traveler by providing Mississippi River access points along the Great River Road with amenities that allow for viewing of river vistas, picnicking, parking, water and restroom facilities. Interpretive kiosks will discuss the history, industry and recreation along the Mississippi River. The amenities will benefit those traveling along the Great River Road in vehicles and those bicycling or walking along the Mississippi River Trail.



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Fax: 641.236.6779
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IPRA Today is produced by the I.P.R.A.
Publications Committee Chair, Deborah
Martinez, deborah@lightenupiowa.org

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Cathy Shutts
cshutts@pccpartner.net

IPRA Calendar of Events

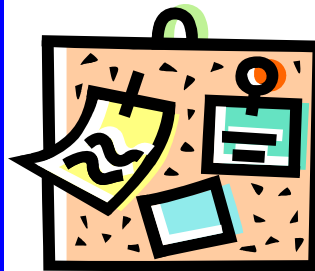


February

- 11 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Sioux City
- 12-13 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Sioux City
- 13 Official Ballot Deadline
- 18 Office Closed—President's Day

March

- 10 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Ames
- 11-12 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Ames
- 12-15 NRPA Legislative Forum—Washington, DC
- 29 IPRA Coed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 30-April 2 IPRA Spring Conference—Council Bluffs



Note These Changes!

Doug Foley's new e-mail address: dfoley1@iowatelecom.net

Change of address for **Darrell Thiner** of Daktronics Inc.:

Darrell Thiner
Daktronics Inc.
6950 NE 14th Street, Ste. 31
Ankeny, IA 50023

Josh VandeKamp is a new employee with the Waukee Parks and Recreation Department. Here is his contact information:

Josh VandeKamp
Waukee Parks and Recreation
230 Highway 6
Waukee, IA 50263
Phone: 515.978.0006
E-mail: jvandekamp@waukee.org