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From: Pomeranz, Jeff A.
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 10:15 PM
To: City Council
Subject: 6-4-2021 Council Communications - 268

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DEI Manager Search

After an extensive search and interview process, a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager candidate was identified and an offer was extended. Unfortunately, we were unable to come to a mutually satisfactory agreement as to employment terms. Working with the contracted search firm, we will renew the search process immediately and fill the position with a qualified candidate as quickly as possible.

Mini Pines Opening

The Parks and Recreation Department will host a grand opening celebration to officially open Mini Pines, the City's new miniature golf course. The opening will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 11. Council, staff and residents are invited to see the new course, enter drawings for family packages and enjoy refreshments from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The new entertainment venue is in a park like setting overlooking Twin Pines Golf Course, 3800 42nd St. NE. Mini Pines features 18 lighted holes with four holes involving water play. The course includes a nine-foot waterfall, miniature Tree of Five Seasons and final "horse race" hole where anyone has a chance to win. Each hole provides a unique experience that can be fun and social, or competitive. Adjacent to the golf course parking lot, the course is easy to walk for individual of all ages. It features completely accessible holes throughout – one of only a few courses to offer this level of play for individuals with mobility disabilities.

My CR Citizen Request System – First Quarter Update

In the three months since the My CR citizen request system was launched, City staff have been busy assisting citizens with logging their concerns and ensuring all concerns are being processed in a timely manner. As of June 3, the system received 5,000 requests and over 470 citizens have created a My CR account.

Please continue to encourage residents to [sign-up](#) for a My CR account so they can take advantage of all the benefits the system has to offer including: receiving automatic status updates, monitoring their submissions from their personal dashboards, and interacting with city staff by sending/receiving notes through their discussion feature in their dashboards. We are also working on creating a step-by-step demo video for citizens to help guide them through submitting a request and highlighting useful features included with a registered account.

First Time Homebuyer Program

The First Time Homebuyer Program will begin accepting applications on July 7 at 8:00 a.m. The program assists households with up to \$14,999 in down payment/closing cost assistance to eligible buyers. Buyers must be below 80% of

the Area Median Income, which would be \$71,500 for a family of four. The assistance is secured by a lien, which is completely forgivable after 5 years.

Kirkwood Blvd SW and Woodstone Lane Roundabout

The City of Cedar Rapids, in partnership with the College Community School District, will soon begin roadway improvements at the intersection of Kirkwood Blvd SW and Woodstone Lane SW. This intersection will serve as the main entrance to a new 5th/6th grade building that the school district is beginning construction on. The intersection will transition into a single-lane roundabout to help support additional traffic volumes and safely manage the flow of traffic. The roundabout that was constructed in 2017 at Prairie Point Middle School to the north of this intersection operates extremely well, and the City and school district are pleased to partner on this important improvement project through a 28E cost-share agreement. Roundabouts have been shown to significantly reduce, or eliminate, the number and severity of crashes. They have also been shown to efficiently handle large traffic volumes by moving traffic slowly and safely through the intersection in a counter-clockwise movement, without the need for motorists to stop at signals or stop signs. The school district and its consultant are taking the lead on construction. Kirkwood Blvd SW at Woodstone Lane SW will be closed the duration of the summer; crews will build a temporary access road to ensure residents in the subdivision off Woodstone Ln can safely enter and exit their subdivision while construction is underway. Construction is scheduled to start next week and will be completed this fall.

Re-Bid for Right-of-Way Derecho Repairs

The City is undertaking the repairs of right-of-way infrastructure that was damaged due to the derecho, such as sidewalks or driveway aprons. This work will be contracted out. It was bid on May 26, but due to a bidding error, will need to be re-bid. The Public Works Department will be requesting council reject all bids during the June 8 City Council meeting, as well as set a new public hearing date to rebid the project. The re-bid date would be June 23. Work is still anticipated to be underway this summer and continue into 2022.

Korean Barbeque

Staff wanted to provide you with background on a restaurant request, as the owner may reach out to you. Building Services and Development Services staff has been approached by Kyle Franklin, who has proposed a Korean Barbeque style restaurant. He has proposed two separate locations in Cedar Rapids, and has met and discussed his proposal with representatives from Development Services, Building Services, and the Fire Department. A Korean BBQ restaurant is where patrons sit at their own table and cook over a cooking appliance while seated. This dining style uses a hood and suppression system for fire prevention. Mr. Franklin is proposing to install the cooking appliance without the required hood. His proposal included a “downdraft” air purification system, but the table is not under an exhaust hood. The adopted mechanical Code (a nationally recognized standard) considers these appliances “medium duty,” and medium duty appliances are required to be under a Type I Hood with suppression. The Fire Department agrees with this assessment. Staff has also researched other jurisdictions, and reached out to the International Code Council and private code consulting agencies, and all have come to the conclusion that these types of appliances should be under a hood and suppression system. Staff has found many examples across the United States where these types of restaurants use hood and suppression systems for this style of dining. Our staff will continue to work with Mr. Franklin and will require him to include the proper hood and fire suppression system.

New Officers Sworn-in and Recruits Start Academy

Two police officers were sworn-in by Councilmember and Public Safety & Youth Services Committee Chairperson Dale Todd at the Police Station this morning. The two officers, Nathan Craun and Renee Sheely, were lateral transfers, which means both officers are certified peace officers. Both of these lateral transfers will be assigned to a Field Training Officer. The other ten recruits will begin the Cedar Rapids Regional Police Academy, which includes 19 weeks of academy training. All of the candidates attended new City hire orientation on Thursday and will do ride-alongs with current Cedar Rapids Police officers.

The demographics of the recruits include one Black female, three white females, and eight white males. The Police Department continues to recruit for certified peace officers to fill remaining police officer position vacancies. The application period is continuing through June 7.

