

Iowa County East Annex – 970 Court Ave., Marengo, IA 52301

Board members in attendance: Parsons, Phillips, Montross & Schumacher

Board members in absent: Danaher

Staff in attendance: Slings, Wuebker, Minnich & Trickett

Call to Order: at 6:00pm by Phillips

Motion to Adjourn: 7:02pm by Schumacher & seconded by Montross, all voted aye.

1) Pledge of Allegiance

2) Approve Agenda – Motion for approval by Montross seconded by Parsons, all voted aye.

3) Open Forum

- A) Public Comment – None
- B) Board Comment – South house cleanup & prepping for next stage. Will revisit at a later date for next steps for house options.

4) Approval of Minutes from April 8, 2026 meeting – Motion for approval by Parsons, seconded by Phillips, all voted aye.

5) Approval of April 2026 Bills – Motion for approval by Montross & seconded by Phillips, all voted aye.

6) Staff Updates:

A: Blair - In April I engaged with the public at the nature center, our parks, and through our social media. I prepared, presented and cleaned up many in-class programs and field trips for several Iowa county schools, with school program engagement information as follows: Program student participants 754 students, and 125 adults, with 835 contact hours. I prepared staffed or presented and cleaned up for some upcoming public programs/events including Open Nature Center Saturday program, REA Inc programming. I fed and cleaned the enclosures of our education animals. I attended staff meetings. I worked on planning summer programs, making lessons, and purchasing materials for them. All staff started to plan the 2026 Iowa County Outdoor Adventure event.

B: Trickett: In attendance

C: Wuebker - Ready, Set & GO! 2026 camping season is here and in full swing. Shower house facilities have been turned on and operational since the middle of April. No major issues with getting those facilities running. In addition to shower houses opening, we have commenced our routine mowing for each week. We welcomed our new staff Molly Hicks April 23 and Connor Trickett on May 4. Welcome you two and look forward to seeing what this team can do for the progression for Iowa County. I have ordered rock to be delivered and spread on core areas of concern within park roadways system that needs rock. Should be completed within the next week. Just earlier this week we completed prescribed burns on an additional 6.5 acres within the LIP system. April 29th I had Juniors & Seniors from English Valley High School out to

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assist with picking up sticks throughout the campground & shelter areas. On Friday May 1st I had 14 Iowa Valley students assisting with trash cleanup at Gateway Park. On Wednesday May 6 we partnered with District Forester, Mark Vitosh to assist with the Master Conservationist program provided by Iowa State Extension at the Gunderson property. This seminar provided a boots on the ground - walk and talk opportunity for 10 master conservationist prospects to see work completed thus far on a habitat restoration project, examples of quality timber/prairie areas in general and knowledge on a multi-use recreational area. Hopefully, everyone has a great Memorial Day weekend coming up.

D: Hicks/Minnich – In attendance

7) Business

A: Lake Iowa Park –

- i) Work around the park:
 - a. Campsite grading on 73 sites
 - b. 200 ton of roadstone laid on park interior roadways & stored 100 ton in back lot
 - c. Campsites have been sprayed
 - d. Cleared areas and burnt brush piles
 - e. EV Junior & Seniors for cleanup day
 - f. Master gardener cleanup day
 - g. Outdoor Adventures June 13th
- ii) AED addition to beach area:
 - a. AED placement going in near beach area – Lori Sheeler – Health Department

B: Business –

- i) Housing Policy viewing/vote:
 - a. Motion made by Montross & seconded by Phillips to consider approval of housing policy, all voted aye.
- ii) Vote on removal of Elizabeth Capron from checking account:
 - a. Motion for approval by Montross & seconded by Schumacher to remove Elizabeth Capron from checking account, all voted aye.
- iii) Emergency repair of LINC HVAC:
 - a. Replacement to be completed for new unit Thursday May 21, 2026
- iv) Salary Certification 3%:
 - a. Motion for consideration of 3% salary certification by Montross & seconded by Schumacher, all voted aye.

C: Pilot Grove –

- i. Management Conducted:

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a. Burn completed

D: Gunderson Wildlife Area –

- i. Master conservationist tour of Gunderson:
- Master Conservationist Tour with Mark Vitosh with 10 participants to walk & talk about the timber & prairie system within Gunderson area.

E: Gateway Park & Preserve –

- i. Project Updates:
- ii. Gateway Cameras: Will revisit at a later day
- iii. Gateway Project Public Hearing:

8) Next Meeting: June 10, 2026 at Lake Iowa Park Nature Center

9) Notes:

- Motion made by Montross to enter into public hearing at 6:31pm & seconded by Schumacher for Gateway improvement project.

-Motion made by Schumacher to approve project contract, specs to go out for public bid for the Gateway Improvement project & seconded by Montross.

- Motion made by Montross to close public hearing at 6:45pm & seconded by Schumacher for Gateway improvement project.

- Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2026 special meeting – Motion for approval by Phillips, seconded by Schumacher, all voted aye.

10) Meeting Adjournment – Motion made by Schumacher & seconded by Montross to adjourn May 13, 2026 at 7:02pm.