

Staff Report

IOWA GAMES EVENT CLOSURES RELATED TO COVID-19

May 26, 2020

BACKGROUND:

At its May 12, 2020 meeting, City Council approved the cancellation of non-City events on City property. These events included, but not limited to, the 4th of July Parade, Roosevelt Summer Concert Series, Velo Bicycle Race, Ames on the Half Shell, and Ames Triathlon. The Iowa Games Summer Games which utilize City, University, and other properties was discussed, but no action was taken. Council directed staff to contact Iowa Games staff and bring a recommendation on May 26 using the following criteria:

- **Is the event allowed under the Governor's emergency proclamations?**
- **How many attendees are expected, and how densely crowded are they?**
- **Do event organizers have a plan and equipment/supplies needed for increased hygiene?**
- **Is there sufficient staffing by event organizers to maintain social distancing among participants?**
- **Is there an increased risk that the event will require City staff to be in close contact with participants or organizers for an extended period of time?**

Iowa Games has been conducting the Summer Games for over 30 years and have thousands of athletes compete each year in over 60 events. Most of these events take place in Ames with several competitions utilizing City property and/or equipment. The Iowa Games Board of Directors has already cancelled some events, may be cancelling additional events (dependent on whether the venue will allow it), and will be hosting 10-15 events. A list of events on City property and the status of each is shown below:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Baseball	Brookside Park	Cancelled
Canoe/Kayak	Ada Hayden Heritage Park	Cancelled
Disc Golf	Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course	Pending
Figure Skating	Ames/ISU Ice Arena	Cancelled
Horseshoes	River Valley Park	Cancelled
Softball (Youth)	River Valley Park	Cancelled
Softball (Adult)	River Valley Park	Cancelled
Tennis	Emma McCarthy Lee Park	Cancelled
Zumba	Community Center	Cancelled

Iowa Games is requesting City Council allow Disc Golf (July 18) to be held this year at Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course in Gateway Hills Park.

EVENT INFORMATION:

Disc Golf: These tournaments are held at Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course (City property) and Stable Run Disc Golf Course (ISU property). At the time of this writing, Iowa Games has not heard from ISU if their disc golf course will be made available for the Iowa Games as it is currently closed. The Carroll Marty Course is open and could accommodate all disc golf events, if needed.

- **Is the event allowed under the Governor's emergency proclamations?**

Yes.

- **How many attendees are expected, and how densely crowded are they?**

Approximately 50 golfers are expected, and they can be spread out throughout the course.

- **Do event organizers have a plan and equipment/supplies needed for increased hygiene?**

Iowa Games does have a plan and is confident they will have enough equipment/supplies needed for increased hygiene protocols. They will also do the following:

- Golfers must use their own discs
- Provide wipes or hand sanitizer to golfers at check-in
- Volunteers would wear gloves and masks

- **Is there sufficient staffing by event organizers to maintain social distancing among participants?**

Iowa Games indicates they will have staff on site and will have the following rules in place to help with social distancing:

- If the ISU course is open, participants would be split between the two courses to not overload one course
- If only one course is available, Iowa Games will limit the number of people per hole and stagger the start times to help with social distancing
- No onsite registration will be accepted
- Player meeting will be done virtually
- Medal ceremony would be adjusted to be contactless (pick up at Iowa Games office, mail, etc.)

- **Is there an increased risk that the event will require City staff to be in close contact with participants or organizers for an extended period of time?**

No City staff is required for this event.

OPTIONS:

1. Allow Iowa Games to host their disc golf event (July 18) at Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course.
2. Do not allow Iowa Games to host their disc golf event (July 18) at Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The City Council is only being asked to consider the Iowa Games events held on City property. Although, Iowa Games initially asked to host nine events on City property, they are down to one – Disc Golf. Disc Golf is an individual event with most of the participants coming from the greater Ames area according to Iowa Games staff. Iowa Games is meeting the event criteria set by Council and is requesting to use a venue that is currently open.

Iowa Games is an annual component of summertime in Ames, yet Iowa Games staff recognizes the importance of being cautious and determining which events can be done safely. In addition, the City has opened Homewood Golf course which could be a similar type of activity. Iowa Games has already cancelled more than 40 events for this year and are only hosting the ones they feel can be done in a safe manner. **Therefore, based on the information provided, it is reasonable that City Council would choose Option #1 and allow Iowa Games to host their disc golf event (July 18) at Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course.**