

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*October 15, 2019 5:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
221 East Clark Street*

Members Present:

Mark Calderon, Chair
Jodi Hartman
Anne Sternhagen
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson
Rich Yost
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Steve Ball

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager

Others in Attendance:

Gary Hagen

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Mark Calderon.

Approval of the Minutes:

No official minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Not documented

Public Items:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

None

Old Business:

Mark would like to add pickle ball discussion to November meeting agenda. It was requested that Phil or Joe will give an update.

Recreation: Report given by Bob Furland and Jennifer Davis as follows;

- Bob shared the preliminary CIP projects for the next 5 years. These are not official at this time.
 - Aquatic Center – replace sound system and update the bathhouse (structural concerns). Waiting on an architect to tour the facility to get a better idea of the need for updates or a complete reconstruction.
 - Arena – reroof (large expense) and replace rubber flooring throughout the facility
 - Theater – Replace Marion Ross Sign on exterior north wall, replace Green Room countertop and refinish flooring. Jason asked about replacing windows currently

slated for a few years out. Bob discussed that project could move up as it may fall within the energy saving plans for our facilities. Bob will check on Jason's question regarding the current front doors to verify they meet code.

- Recreation truck and CRV likely to be replaced.
- Bob shared that work on CIPs will now be focused on a 10 year plan rather than just 5 years.
- Continued work on printed Trail Maps in partnership with SHIP. Engineering is helping with the development of the maps that will include waterways, bike trails, proposed future trails, city parks and points of interest. SHIP will likely fund the majority of this project.
- Request was made to invite Bill Howe to a future meeting to share information and data about the new bike rental stations. Concerns were expressed about people knowing about these and also how to use the system. Jenny shared doing a Facebook video demonstration on the City of Albert Lea Facebook page may help to inform the community better.
- Community Health and Wellness Fair hosted by Recreation and SHIP will take place on January 13th at the Senior Center. Looking to promote attendance to smaller local businesses unable to host one of their own, senior citizens, stay-at-home parents, etc. Flu shots, dieticians, cooking presentations, and mental health are just a few of the participating vendors.
- Working with the State Park staff to collaborate on programming at the state park.
- National Night Out planning has started in hopes of holding a local event the week after the 2020 Freeborn County Fair and before school starts.
- MEA activities are coming up and participation numbers are looking positive. Mites Hockey registration is full swing as well as winter programming now live online.

Parks: Report given by Bob Furland on behalf of Joe Grossman as follows;

- Fall clean up continues with tree planting, trimming and removal; flower and landscape winterization; cleanup following the Rendezvous at Bancroft Park and concrete pads being finished at Valley Park.
- Council has approved WSB to move forward with Snyder Field plans – renovation of current location or relocation.

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- New ADA front doors will be installed in the next few weeks.
- Both sheets of ice are in full use as winter hockey and figure skating is underway. Lon is working with user groups to promote increased usage and attendance at current events.
- Sound System is beginning to be replaced starting with the inside office components. Bob is working with youth hockey and the figure skating club to share costs of replacing speakers.

Senior Center: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Over 80's Party is this week which typically brings in a large crowd.
- Overnight Casino Trip to Jackpot Junction is next week and is full with nearly 40 registered.
- Interviews were completed for a new part-time position. Hoping to secure a hire shortly and be back to full staff.

Board Member Items:

- Jason Howland –

- ACT opens their new season on Thursday with Church Basement Ladies 2. Ticket sales are anticipated to be great.
- ACT is working with “Theater People” on a web-based taping in Albert Lea this weekend. This is a fictional, comedy viewed online only. They have toured the theater and the community and are looking for extras to volunteer for their taping.
- The CVB and a designated committee are bringing BASS University to our community the 3rd week in March 2020. It is a national fishing classroom that will put on a two day event. This event expects to bring in 100-200 registrants and will benefit local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, etc. Professionals will present seminars on fishing techniques.
- Jennifer Vogt-Erickson –
 - Friends of the Library is having their fall book sale this Thursday-Saturday.
- Rich Yost –
 - First Presbyterian Church/Steve Piper began a youth football tackle program in Albert Lea. Area 5th and 6th graders participated, along with some 4th graders. Participation numbers far exceeded expectations and creates excitement for the future of Albert Lea Football. Their practice and game location was at Grizzly Field. Gary Hagen asked if the city will be able to recoup any improvement expenses if Riverland wants Snyder Field land back. There was some confusion on what was presented at last night’s council meeting. Jason confirmed there was inaccurate information and that it was corrected. There was a contract signed by the city to confirm that any costs put into the land would be reimbursed per the agreement. It is unsure if Riverland has signed this agreement on their end. Staff will check on this.

Adjournment: Anne Sternhagen made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 6:10pm, and Rich Yost seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved on a 6-0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Mark Calderon
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman