

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2017 5:30 pm
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.

Members Present:

Marc Calderon
Dan Borland
Chris Utz, Chairman (exited meeting at 6:15pm)
Brian Hensley
Jane Grund
Anne Sternhagen

Members Absent:

Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Jennifer Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Gary Hagen, 501 Albert Lea St., Albert Lea

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Chris Utz.

Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was approved on a 6-0 voice vote.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from September 19, 2017 meeting were approved on a 6-0 voice vote.

Public Items: None

Action/Discussion Items: None

Update Items;

Parks: Joe Grossman provided updates;

- Work at the City Beach building and play equipment for Hayek Park will not be ordered or completed and has been put on hold until next year.
- Splash pad is still open as the weather continues to be warm.
- The flowers have been taken out downtown and the pots will be removed once it freezes.
- Seasonal staff are done working.
- Four high board and four pleasure rinks are being set up and any necessary repairs being made.
- Water will be shut down soon. Tree trimming and leaf clean up continues as well as planting and watering. Gardens are closed for the season.
- Dolly Sichko memorial bench project has been completed.

- Vern Rasmussen, Sr. (via email) brought up a concern when traveling north on Broadway Ave the planters on the east side obstruct the view of oncoming vehicles. Grossman advised he has received one complaint and he will check with Steve Jahnke to see if this is an issue that needs attention.
- Vern Rasmussen Sr. (via email) stated the Christmas decorations downtown look cheap and we should have something nicer since it looked so nice this summer. Grossman advised there is no money budgeted for Christmas decorations this year.
- Grossman advised Bancroft Park took a beating after the Big Island Rendezvous and Festival. The grounds will be aerated and seeded.

Arena: Bob Furland provided updates;

- Hockey tryouts have been going on and have increased by one team this year.
- In-house mites sign up is underway and 102 youth are signed up and sign up will continue through November.
- The purchase of a new Zamboni has been pushed back to next year's budget along with new turf. The turf will be purchased used and no good options have come up so far.

Recreation: Jennifer Davis provided updates;

- Reviewed costs of programming and events. Budget worksheets prepared by Jennifer Davis become part of these minutes by reference.
- Playpark attendance has been low and staff is looking at different programming ideas for next year. Possibly having two or three playparks open full time with scheduled events and more staffing. This will be decided by January as the summer book will need to be completed. Staff is open to suggestions at this time.
- A focus group is being planned for November. The first focus group session had three people attend and was by invite only. The next session will be open to the general public.

Brian Hensely advised the programming cost worksheets are a great tool. He suggested it would also be useful to add the date of the program or event, a comparison column with last year's data and an area to document the weather.

Bob Furland advised there will be one possibly two open seats on the Park Board for next year. Please let him know if anyone is interested in applying.

Old Business: Proposed restroom to service the downtown. Brian Hensley has not heard any feedback from the public nor received any complaints. He suggested to continue with the port-a-potty service for next year unless complaints are received or a group becomes interested in fundraising.

Work Plan Items: The Marketing Plan will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Board Member Items:

Dan Borland commented he has seen families holding up towels for a makeshift changing area for their children. He believes there is a need for a restroom downtown in the vicinity of the splash pad and also realizes it takes time to put together a successful project and wouldn't want to rush into anything.

Anne Sternhagen advised the sound system in the arena has not been working very well for the figure skaters, the CD player tends to skips often. Furland advised he would check on this issue and figure out the best way to fix the problem.

Marc Calderon advised he is hopeful the Lakers baseball team will be coming back next season and he will keep the group posted as plans progress.

Adjournment: Brian Hensely made a motion for adjournment and Dan Borland seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm on a 5-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held December 19, 2017 at 5:30 at the City Arena.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Marc Calderon
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman