

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2017 5:30 pm
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.

Members Present:

Marc Calderon, Vice chair
Dan Borland
Chris Utz, Chair (joined meeting at 5:34pm)
Brian Hensley
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Jane Grund
Anne Sternhagen

Staff in Attendance:

Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager
Phil Wacholz, Assistant Director of Public Works
Wyeth Anderson, Intern City of Albert Lea
Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
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 Vice chair Marc Calderon.

Approval of Agenda:

Brian Hensley made a motion to approve the agenda and Vern Rasmussen, Sr. seconded the motion. The agenda was approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Hensley made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting and Dan Borland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Items: None

Action/Discussion Items: None

Update Items;

Senior Center: Furland advised the Annual meeting is this Friday, December 22nd for Senior Center staff and volunteers. Jerry Gabrielatos advised Paula Juveland has been working on partnering with other communities for outings that require bussing to share travel expenses.

Parks: Joe Grossman gave updates;

- Howard Schewe, Parks Foreman is retiring January 12, 2018 after 37 years of service. Staff is in the process of interviewing candidates to fill this position.
- The Parks Dept. has been busy trimming trees,
- City wide garbage clean up,

- Equipment maintenance, getting ready for snow removal and spring and summer season,
- Rink liner has been installed at Academy Park and just waiting for the temperature to drop to flood the rink, hoping for Wednesday December 27th.
- Working on getting warming houses ready to open for winter break,
- Academy Playpark building is in need of repairs do to dry rot.

Arena: Bob Furland provided updates;

- This past weekend the arena hosted a sixteen team A and B Pee Wee tournament,
- Boys and girls varsity hockey has begun and going well,
- Youth hockey has added one more team this year,
- During Christmas break and including Christmas Eve there will be open skate daily from 1-3pm.

Recreation:

- Christmas break activities will include, December 26th trip to Mall of America, Crayola Experience in partnership with the Albert Lea Family Y, December 27th is a Family Mystery Movie at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center at 2pm, December 28th is Thursday Funday will be at the arena and swap with the YMCA to include skating, swimming and gym time.
- Warming houses will open up Friday, December 29th starting at Hayek playpark,
- Recreation staff is working on redesigning the summer brochure,
- Furland advised he is working with Susie Peterson, Albert Lea Convention and Visitors Bureau Director to plan the summer evenings Thursdays on the Fountain events.
- Bob Furland and Jennifer Davis attended a data workshop, this workshop covered how to collect and use data to rate and develop programs and provided information and insights how to use data to gain support, improve operations and better serve the community.
- The Recreation Department purchased a webinar for staff to view from the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference including topics on Innovation and Social Equity.

Phil Wacholz presented the marina pilot project. The city is looking at purchasing a dock and dock equipment for the public to rent for a fee. This is information only at this time and no action or recommendation is necessary. This proposed project will be presented to the City Council at the Tuesday work session. This project would include two docks with two rental spaces per dock (total of four rental spaces). The city would be responsible for installing the equipment at a selected location. People that would want these dock spaces would rent them through the Recreation Dept. The equipment would be floatable so it would adjust with the lake elevation.

The following locations staff has identified are as follows;

- Edgewater Park (near parking lot and east gate area)
- Wedge Street "cove area" (Oakwood and Cedar Ave/Edgewater Bay part of the lake)
- Brookside Channel (south of boat landing on west side)
- (2) locations at the City Beach

Favored site is Wedge Street for the following reasons;

- There is not a lot of public traffic,
- It is also not a hidden area, provides some visibility,
- Access to public parking space.

Location is open for discussion. Docks would extend out into the water 36'. The estimated cost of equipment is \$12,000 with a projected three year return on the investment. If the renter wanted a lift they would be responsible for the purchase and installation. The docks would be modular and could be expanded upon in the future. Benefits to the renters is the equipment would be installed, maintained and stored by the city. This would be a pilot project to see if there is a demand for this type of service/rental.

Brian Hensley questioned the return on this project and advised the projected return doesn't add in the cost of installation, storage and maintenance that would be required. He believes this is not a good use of city resources to buy docks and try to break even renting them. Hensley also brought up there are several docks around Oakwood Circle that are rented and those folks have been using the parking spaces on Wedge. The circle is very narrow and some people tend to park in this area and if the city starts to enforce the no parking in this area it could be a problem.

Gabrielatos advised the docks could be used for several more years. Grossman advised the docks would easily last ten years or more before the wood may need to be replaced.

Jason Howland advised other communities have marinas which are privately owned. The challenge for Albert Lea is the locations are very limited where this could happen.

Old Business: None

Work Plan Items: Jennifer Nelson created and linked a Flickr account to the Parks and Recreation portion of the website which showcases pictures of parks and recreation programs and events. The recreation staff is also working on a marketing plan and should be completed soon. The Recreation Department is also looking at purchasing recreation software that will interface with the city Parks and Recreation website which will allow people to view photos of the pavilions for rent.

Board Member Items:

Brian Hensley

Hensley is President of the Lakes Foundation Board and they will be seeking out short and long term projects. He would like Bob Furland and/or Joe Grossman to attend Lakes Foundation January meeting. The group would like to work with the City Parks and Recreation Department and Watershed to make the lakes more fun and beautiful. The dock/marina pilot project may be a good project to work together on and fundraise for.

Vern Rasmussen

Rasmussen inquired if the Cell-Fi Station project was still being worked on. It is currently not being worked on the SMIF money awarded was rolled into the traveling benches project. The traveling benches project was created and lead by the Freeborn County Arts Initiative and are being displayed downtown.

A big thank you to Chris Utz and Jane Grund for serving on the Parks and Recreation Board. Chris Utz served two terms and currently as President and Jane Grund served one term. Their service is greatly appreciated!

Adjournment: Chris Utz made a motion for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm on a 5-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held January 16, 2018 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