

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*February 19, 2019 5:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
221 East Clark Street*

Members Present:

Mark Calderon, Chair
Dan Borland, Vice Chair
Jodi Hartman
Belinda Krysan
Steve Ball
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Anne Sternhagen

Staff in Attendance:

Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager
Phil Wacholz, Assistant Director of Public Works
Joe Grossman, Parks Superintendent
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Carol Marth, Senior Center Director
Jennifer Nelson, Recreation Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Mark Calderon.

Approval of Agenda:

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the agenda for this evenings meeting and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The agenda was approved on a 4-0 voice vote. (Jennifer Vogt-Erickson and Belinda Krysan were absent for the vote)

Approval of the Minutes:

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes for this evenings meeting and Dan Borland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote. (Jennifer Vogt-Erickson and Belinda Krysan were absent for the vote)

Public Items: None

Action/Discussion Items: None

Old Business:

Pool policies; closing early when attendance is low and minimum temperature to open.

Mark Calderon asked if any board members would like to make a suggestion.

Jodi Hartman advised as a pool attendee herself, she likes the idea of sectioning the pool off and sending staff home to save money rather than closing the pool. Mark Calderon advised his daughter works at the pool and she has been sent home occasionally if it's not busy and also agrees with closing a section of the pool rather than closing the entire pool. Steve Ball agreed this is the best option as season pass holders are not turned away and still cost saving for the city.

The consensus of the group recommends the best option is to close a section off and send staff home rather than closing the pool and also to leave the temperature to open at 65 degrees.

Recreation programming and cost, time to answer any further questions.

The board did not have any questions. Bob Furland advised if anyone has questions in the future to give him a call.

Dan Borland inquired on the topic of eGaming. Furland advised Jerry Gabrielatos has been working on this and discussed starting this activity in the library as the library has existing computers and would provide a way to gauge interest. Furland advised this topic created numerous comments on Facebook which lead city staff to speak to a couple of bigger gamers in Albert Lea to get their input. The people interested ages range up to 40 year olds. Staff is educating themselves on this topic and investigating a variety of games and equipment. Staff will keep the board updated on future developments regarding the topic of eGaming as a recreation activity.

Recreation: Report given by Bob Furland

- Jenny Davis and Teresa Kauffmann are busy working on the summer brochure. The brochure will be mailed to the public in April.
- City staff is busy working on preparing for the Governors Fishing Opener.
- In house hockey tournament is this weekend for Mites Hockey (6-10 year olds). The 2019 Mites Jamboree celebrates the end of their hockey season.
- Albert Lea Cyclists have been meeting and preparing for the 2019 Rock'n Roll the Lakes bike ride being held July 13th which includes working with Helmer Myre State Park staff and promoting local trails by being part of the bike ride. The ride will include a 50 and 26 mile route as well as a 10 mile route around Fountain Lake.
- Recreation is holding an adult volleyball tournament on March 2nd at Albert Lea High School.
- Summer staff letters went out and interviews will begin in March.
- Flyers will be going out to the schools soon for Off the Wall Soccer sign up information.
- Boat dock and garden letters will be mailed out February 28th, new this year dock letters will be accompanied by an application which requires the dock slip renter to provide proof of liability coverage for the dock with a minimum of \$300,000 of liability coverage. The policy must also specifically list the address of the dock.

Parks: Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Staff is considering increasing the size of the garden plots on Spark Ave.
- Staff has been very busy with snow removal.
- Nuisance snow removal complaints, notice is given and if snow is not removed city staff remove the snow and the homeowner fined.
- Keeping outdoor ice rinks cleaned and commented it has been a great season for the rinks.
- Big Freeze was held February 9th the pond hockey tournament was moved to Lakeview Park.
- Lake aerators are up and running, one is running in each location out of three, the other two are broken and need repairs.
- Working on picnic tables and building maintenance.

Steve Ball inquired on the snow complaints, Grossman advised in the past they had contracted out the snow removal and had problems getting bids. City staff is currently doing the snow removal. Grossman advised they take nuisance calls on a complaint basis as there are hundreds of properties that are in violation. Grossman advised their first priority is making sure the sidewalks are clear for the children walking to and from school. Ball advised in his neighborhood it is usually the same houses every year that do not shovel their sidewalks. Ball asked if would help motivate people to remove the snow if the fines were raised. Phil Wacholz advised the city can only bill the homeowner

a reasonable cost to recoup the actual cost of staff to remove the snow. Currently the fine is \$50.00 for snow removal along with a \$30.00 administrative fee which is a total of \$80.00 and Wacholz advised this is at the top end of that as the average residence sidewalk is 50' long and even iced over it doesn't take that long to remove. Wacholz also advised this may be on a case by case basis as well and gave the example of a business that was a violator and a loader was brought in to remove the snow and the business was charged accordingly to cover the cost.

There was a question regarding shoveling out fire hydrants. Hydrants are different as there is not an ordinance that requires snow removal around hydrants. The fire department will kindly ask for help and people oblige by "adopting" a near-by hydrant and shovel it out. City staff shovel the hydrants in general public areas.

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Districts for the younger players were last weekend.
- Boys High School section hockey game is this Thursday at 7pm which is a second round game.
- Starting to book spring and summer ice.
- Couple of hockey teams still practicing.
- Waldorf has three games this weekend (total of seven games left for the season).
- To do list is being created to start painting and cleaning to prepare for the next season.

Jason Howland advised he had a colleague approach him that attended the B Peewee Districts this last weekend and commented how impressed she was with the facility.

Senior Center: Report given by Carol Marth as follows;

- Marth distributed the February newsletter to board members and advised it is mailed out to all members at the end of the month to keep them informed of activities.
- There are many repeat activities such as exercise classes which include; Aerobics, Zumba, Yoga, Building Bones and SAILS (Stay Active and Independent for Life).
- Cards, Bridge, Bingo and the Red Hat Society has recycled greeting cards for sale for 50 cents each, celebrate holidays and birthdays. The Senior Center is a great place for seniors to stay active and socialize.
- Seniors ages range from 55 and older, Marth advised they have active members that are 95 year olds. The average age of active members daily and weekly range from 75-85 years old.
- Monthly trips include plays with dinner shows and casinos, transportation is provided by a coach bus.
- Marth advised they have a weekly or monthly educational presentations and gave examples such as diabetes, high blood pressure or chronic pain as topics covered.
- Marth also works with other senior focused organizations such as Senior Resources in which they are collaborating on a future presentation for members.
- Coffee and dessert is served daily at the Senior Center and you are welcome to stop in anytime and visit.
- Room rentals are also available at the Senior Center which accommodates 20-100 people. There is a very lovely dining area with a full kitchen. This area has accommodated birthdays, holidays, bridal showers, graduation and much more. Rentals are available nights and weekends.

Jerry Gabrielatos advised the senior center is not reaching the 55-70 year olds and is looking for ideas for this section of the public and he is open to any suggestions.

Belinda Krysan suggested promoting events and being more active on social media to reach this section of the public.

Gabrielatos also advised they have talked about rebranding the center such as Rochester uses 55 and Alive. Marth brought up Winona uses the name the Friendship Center.

Board Member Items:

Steve Ball advised he is the site coordinator for high school hockey and would like to thank Bob Furland publicly for the changes he has made to have the ice ready for games as it has noticeably improved. Ball advised he has had zero complaints from visiting teams or parents. Ball advised the season went very smooth.

Jennifer Vogt-Erikson commented her daughter really enjoyed the Big Freeze event along with all the activities offered.

Dan Borland commented it was a little difficult getting down to the lake do to all the snow. Mentioned would be nice to have steps installed as it is very steep.

Gabrielatos brought up the topic of eGames. He advised the Facebook post on this topic received 129 comments. He met with a couple of people and thinks it will be very popular. Some concerns are that people don't want their kids sitting and playing video games although Recreation offers many other options and activities as well.

Adjournment: Steve Ball made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 6:16pm, and Dan Borland seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved on a 6-0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Mark Calderon
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman