

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2018 5:30 pm
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.

Members Present:

Mark Calderon
Dan Borland
Brian Hensley
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Anne Sternhagen 5:32PM
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson 5:32PM
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Tristian Pectorious

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Vern Rasmussen, Sr.

Approval of Agenda:

Chair, Vern Rasmussen Sr. asked the board members if they had any additions for the agenda. Board members had no additional items. *(Jennifer Vogt-Erickson and Anne Sternhagen were absent at this time)*

Approval of Minutes:

Dan Borland made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting and Mark Calderon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote. *(Jennifer Vogt-Erickson and Anne Sternhagen were absent at the time of vote)*

Public Items: None

Action/Discussion Items;

Old Business:

Moving warmup mounds/snow fencing discussion.

Grossman advised this is a valid safety issue as the Lakers are pitching at a higher level and could be a safety issue if someone were to walk into the area and get struck with a bat or ball. Grossman advised there has been talk of having two mounds for each team and this will happen in the future although there will probably not be time this year. Mark Calderon asked if snow fencing could be put up to deter kids from walking through this area. Grossman advised they plan on putting up some fencing this year.

Vern Rasmussen Sr. voiced concerns of the same issues at Morin Park, a bat could slip out of a players hands and injure someone. Bob Furland commented the teams that play at this park are tee ball and mites. Highest level most recently has been 10U girls' softball. Rasmussen believes installing fencing in front of the benches would be a good safety measure. Grossman advised he will do some research to see if this would be necessary.

Jerry Gabrielatos distributed the new spring and summer brochures and pointed out the improvements made from last year.

Brian Hensley pointed out it may be a good idea to let people know in advertising materials that alcohol is allowed at the Edgewater Bay Pavilion with a licensed bar for special events such as weddings.

Parks and Recreation partners with Community Education using a shared brochure which assists in keeping costs down.

Update Items;

Senior Center: Furland reported the Senior Center is business as usual.

Parks: Grossman reported the outdoor rinks at the parks will be wrapping up Sunday, February 25th. The Parks Department has been busy getting ready for spring. The shelter at the beach will be installed this year including 18 benches with grant funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Roofing repairs will be made on existing buildings. Playground equipment will be installed at Hayek Park and Valley Park will be getting to the basketball court. The walking path at Edgewater Park between the pavilion and band shell will be paved with concrete.

Brian Hensley brought up the idea of putting down some gravel or paving an area for catering vehicles to drive down to the cottage. He noticed when the ground is wet the vehicles tear up the grass in this area. Joe Grossman advised they do not want people to think this is a drive way and it could be dangerous for people to be driving in and out of this area with the park being so close by. Grossman will keep this suggestion under advisement.

Tree planting will continue including an Arbor Day event collaborating with community groups such as the Children's Center and Elm Homes. The Parks Dept. will continue to work on mowing and burning the Brookside Pollinator Park area to get the trees under control. This area will continue to be a work in progress.

Vern Rasmussen inquired if the Albert Lea schools new sporting facilities plan being considered has any plans to fix up Snyder Fields. The drainage, restrooms and parking lot is in poor condition. Rasmussen feels it is the poorest ball field for our size of a community in the surrounding area and is in need of renovations.

Grossman advised renovations would carry a large price tag. There are no plans to renovate Snyder Fields at this time under the school's proposed plan. Grossman advised there was talk of reducing some of the softball fields and increasing the number of little league baseball fields. Softball team numbers have dropped and baseball numbers have gone up.

Arena: Furland advised the districts tournament went well and the boys' high school varsity hockey team is having a great year and will be playing the winner of tonight's game Thursday evening at home at 7pm. Mites program is doing well and Furland thanked Anne Sternhagen who has been doing an excellent job as the program coordination. The Colstrup arena had new interior siding installed and is looking nice. Anne Sternhagen advised a new event "Mites Jamboree" will have some new fun activities planned for this Saturday including a vendor who will be selling personalized spray painted hats.

The sheet of ice will be removed off the Nystrom arena the last week of March and the Colstrup ice will be removed the last week in June. Ice will go back on the Nystrom arena the end of August.

Recreation: The new Spring and Summer 2018 Activity Guide has been mailed out and registration is open. A co-ed volleyball tournament will be held March 10th at the high school. Summer staff letters have been sent. Eddie Cochran days will be held downtown this year which is a new location for this event. There will be musical entertainment and a car show. Furland also recently met with Neil Lang with the MRPAC regarding building projects including; new furnace, new curtain and carpet which should be completed before fall. Vern Rasmussen Sr. asked if the theater is leased to the church, Jason Howland advised the theater subleases the space to the church.

Board Member Items;

Brian Hensely

Hensely is President of the Lakes Foundation Board, the Lakes Foundation hosted a retreat this past weekend to look at collaborating on short and long term projects which was attended by 21 people from the community. A list of 40 plus projects was created including projects such as; Blazing Star Trail, dam on Fountain Lake, Pelican Breeze, Dane Bay scuba diving area, canoe launch stations, boat house upgrades, fishing tournaments, City dock program, piers, many of these projects are looking for funding sources and champions for projects. The Lakes Foundation will discuss the proposed projects and create a project book to work from. Anyone is welcome to attend meetings which are held at the CVB the third Wednesday of the month. There will be a Paddle Film Festival held May 31st at the MRPAC to raise awareness for paddling.

Jason Howland

Howland advised the Holiday Lights Committee has come up with a theme "Spruce up Albert Lea for Christmas". This committee is has a fundraising goal of \$75,000.

Adjournment: Dan Borland made a motion for adjournment and Mark Calderon seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm on a 6-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held March 20, 2018 at 5:30 at the City Arena.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Vern Rasmussen Sr.
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman