

PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2021 5:45 pm  
Via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Jen Vogt-Erickson  
Whitney Sauer (arrived at 5:58pm)  
Amy Leach  
Tony Segura  
Jason Howland (Ex-officio) (arrived at 5:55pm)  
Jodi Hartman  
Rich Yost

**Members Absent:**

Steve Ball

**Staff in Attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

None

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:48p.m. by Afton Wacholz.

**Adopt Agenda:**

Jodi Hartman made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Amy Leach seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 5-0 (Whitney Sauer was absent for the vote). Motion declared passed.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Tony Segura made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting and Amy Leach seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 5-0 (Whitney Sauer was absent for the vote). Motion declared passed.

**Public Items:**

None

**Action/Discussion Items:**

None

**Old Business:**

Joe Grossman gave an update on the Snyder Field Dug Outs. Quotes were received for cantilevered dugouts at all 5 fields from RCP Shelters. Local companies, Pro Manufacturing and Alamco, work closely with this company. Dugouts would be 30'x10'x10' and chain link sides. All ten dugouts would cost approximately \$105-110k. Further discussion was had in regards to needing that nice of a dugout design. Rich Yost, on behalf of youth baseball, stated that the design could be scaled down to have a nice option

still but at much lower cost. Rich also discussed Youth Baseball and Softball seeking out field sponsorships and outfield fence banners to help defray the cost. Jason stated that further discussion is scheduled for Snyder Field at the Board Retreat coming up.

**Recreation:** Report given by Jennifer Davis as follows;

- Lea the Leprechaun has been visiting our parks for the last couple of weeks. There have been several families each week sharing pictures with Lea. All of those families will be entered to win a prize
- Bunny Scavenger Hunt, like Lea the Leprechaun, will begin and lead up to Easter.
- The Drive-Thru Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27<sup>th</sup> at Edgewater Bay Pavilion. There will be goodie bags for the kids and a visual Easter egg hunt from the car.
- Easter Basket deliveries will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> and be limited to the first 50 who register.
- Continue to receive summer season staff applications. Most areas are sitting good for staff besides lifeguarding which is still very light at 8.
- Bob reported on collaborating with the Salvation Army to plan a Block Party to target their neighborhood.
- The theater elevator will begin repairs next Monday with hopes for completion in a couple of weeks.
- Park pavilions will open for rentals as of May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Recreation is partnering with the AL Boys Basketball Boosters to plan a Party In The Park. The hope is to bring in kids from the whole community and specifically the neighborhood around Frank Hall Park. Recreation will assist with providing planning for music and food trucks as well as bouncy houses and other outdoor games.
- The pool contractor has been selected and work will begin on the north wall very soon.
- Discussion was had in regards to the outside rentals for the Marion Ross Theater. Bob stated that capacity is at 50% and that staff is currently reviewing guidelines to help with plans to reopen.
- Bob would like to plan a Parks and Recreation Board Retreat and invite an outside facilitator in to help the group brainstorm future goals for our organization.

**Parks:** Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Joe gave the cost break down that Steve Ball requested in regards to putting up an outdoor rink at Troy-Hammer Park again. Minimum cost would be around \$90k, with lights being approximately \$65K and boards \$25K.
- Annual tree and playground inspections are being performed by staff.
- The recent snow fall has staff busy with snow removal again, including on the basketball and pickleball courts to ensure they will melt quickly.
- Pickleball courts are scheduled to be repainted and the cracks fixed the first part of June.
- Two playgrounds are scheduled to have equipment replaced – Memorial and Sondergaard. Rich Yost asked if the old equipment can be reused and Joe stated that not usually due to liability.

**City Arena:** Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Girls U12A District Tournament was held at the City Arena with 12 teams attending. Albert Lea was the champion!
- Girls U12B Regional Tournament was held at the City Arena with 8 teams attending.
- WSB has been selected as the engineer for the arena roofing project. Rubber on the flat roof area will be replaced next spring/summer per current plans.
- Ice will remain on the Colstrup Rink until early July for summer ice.
- City arena has teamed up with the youth baseball program to open up the indoor batting cage in the Colstrup ice rink area for the community. Pre-registration is required and group sizes are limited.

**Senior Center:** Report given by staff as follows;

- The City is looking to seek interest in an outside organization to run the daily operations for the Senior Center. Recreation will still manage trips and bigger activities.

**Board Member Items:**

- Rich Yost thanked staff for looking into the Snyder Field dug outs, He also was appreciative of the batting cages being open at the City Arena.
- Amy Leach asked about the status of the dock rentals on Fountain Lake. Staff are busy collecting renewals from current dock renters as well as preparing for the open dock rental day for the community on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Amy also stated that she is willing to volunteer in any capacity that is needed by our department.
- Jodi Hartman added that it is great to hear updates and more activities and events being planned for the near future.
- Jen Vogt-Erickson shared that her family has enjoyed visiting the parks with the nicer weather, especially Lakeview, Hawthorne and Bancroft.
- Jason Howland commented on the status of the Snyder Field Complex, stating that it comes down to how does our community pay for this? If there is an opportunity to fix things in the meantime and find funding options?

**Adjournment:** Jen Vogt-Erickson made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Rich Yost seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Afton Wacholz  
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

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Steve Ball  
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman