

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

March 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
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Tristian Pectorious
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson 5:32PM

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Bill Howe
Gary Hagen

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

Approval of Agenda:

Dan Borland made a motion to approve the agenda for this evenings meeting and Brian Hensley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian Hensley made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting and Dan Borland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Items: Bill Howe is asking permission to install an equipment rental station (iDiscGolfPort) on the signage at the Bancroft Disc Golf Course. Howe advised the stations would be maintained and operated by him and no work would be involved from the City. This is a self-serve disc golf equipment sharing station.

A picture of the proposed equipment provided by Howe becomes part of these minutes by reference. This location would be a test market to see if he would move forward with this further. He uses the same software as the ipaddle port station that was installed in 2015 and the pickle ball equipment installed last year. Howe advised he currently operates 19 ipaddleport stations spanning along the Mississippi River between Coon Rapids and St. Paul.

Howe would like to attach the cabinet to the Bancroft Bay Disc Golf Course Kiosk at the entrance to the park. He would like to attach to the left side with the back up against the post so the doors would face to the left. It would have two rental units which include a bag and three of the main discs. He plans to

label the discs so in case they get lost someone would perhaps return them. Howe would periodically check the equipment and station to make sure they are in good condition.

Brian Hensley asked Joe Grossman if he supported this proposal, Grossman advised he is indeed in support of the iDiscGolfPort.

Jason Howland inquired on how much the fee would be for the rental equipment and Howe advised the revenue would be \$8.00 for a three hour time slot. This would cover his time and materials for the station.

Dan Borland asked what type of discs would be included in the rental. Howe advised a driver, midrange and putter. He may had more depending on how it goes. He is hoping to promote the rental stations to visitors through the motel/hotels in the area.

Howland asked if there are any other examples with the city partnering with a private business. Grossman advised just these three venues are all he is aware of. Howe advised the canoes and kayaks he takes in a fixed fee and the remainder of the profits go to the City as they own the equipment and he runs the station. Howe would receive all the revenue for the iDiscGolfPort as he purchased and will maintain the equipment. He closed with saying he hopes this is a good asset to the parks.

Brian Hensley made a motion to approve the installation of the iDiscGolfPort self-serve disc golf equipment sharing station at the Bancroft Bay Disc Golf Course and Mark Calderon seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Howe also advised he is looking into setting up camper access cabinets for people to hook up their campers. This would allow people to access campsites on line. He is looking for a test site and would like to work with the City on this venture. Howe likes to use Albert Lea as a test market as it is easy for him to check and maintain the equipment.

Action/Discussion Items: None

Old Business:

Dan Borland advised he had someone comment to him about the poor condition of the rental skates at the arena. Anne Sternhagen advised Bob Furland showed her a sample skate, sounded like he would be purchasing some new skates in the near future.

Update Items;

Senior Center: Paula Juveland will be retiring and her retirement party will be held April 27th at the Senior Citizen Center.

Parks:

- Joe Grossman advised the Watershed will be funding approximately \$1,500 for bags and containers for the dog stations. This still needs approval.
- Grossman wanted to let the board know about the Ash trees that were removed from Katherine Island, a few people were upset about this. The trees had been declining for years. Grossman advised they have been gradually taking them down and replacing them. Some of the damage done to the trees were due to the construction on the island wall, the trees got very wet. Five large Ash trees were removed from Memorial Park that were next to a Phase III power line. Grossman cited concerns regarding Emerald Ash Borer. Grossman advised they work with Freeborn Mower when they can to help the city save money.

- The aeration system on the lake will be shut down soon.

Brian Hensley asked what percentage of trees in Albert Lea are Ash, Grossman responded approximately 20 percent. Grossman advised the Parks Dept. has been proactive regarding Emerald Ash Borer concerns, they have not planted Ash trees for the past 20 years. They take them down as needed. Grossman estimates there are approximately 1,000 Ash trees in public parks and boulevards. The removal of each tree could run \$1,000-\$2,000 per tree, if this disease hits it could be a huge expense. Grossman feels confident they are using the best approach and gave examples of other cities that are doing the same. You take 20 percent of your inventory and treat the trees over a five year period and remove the worst trees and continue this process. Eventually you get to the point where you remove them all or choose to keep some of them. Private trees and forested areas would be challenging if the disease hits. Other communities have used trial and error and learned from each other the best way to deal with this issue. The city would have to set up a tree yard of some kind to dispose of the wood or be utilized in another way.

Arena:

- Figure Skating show will take place this weekend at the Arena
- The Nystrom arena ice is scheduled to be taken out March 26th and should be completed March 28th.
- Gardens open up to the public on April 2nd at 6am
- Boat docks open up to the public on April 16th at 6am
- Albert Lea Home Show will be April 6, 7 and 8
- Ducks Unlimited Banquet will be held April 14th
- Off the Wall Soccer starts the week of April 17th

Recreation:

- Jennifer Davis held open interviews for summer staff. She had 31 applicants/interviews and 65% applied to be a pool attendant. The pool opens June 2nd.
- Registrations are being taken for off the wall soccer.
- During Spring Break week Park & Rec collaborated with the YMCA and took a trip to Bounce World on March 13th. March 15th was "Thursday Fun Day", the kids went swimming at the Family Y while the Y kids went ice skating at the City Arena and shared busing expenses.
- Flyers were sent out for summer sand volleyball and summer softball.
- March 10th was the 14th Annual Co-ed Volleyball tournament. Ten teams participated including teams from Mankato, Rochester, Iowa, South Dakota, Albert Lea and Austin.
- The Albert Lea MOPS group stuffed Easter Eggs at the beginning of March and they are ready to go for our Easter Egg hunt on March 31st. NHS volunteers are helping with this event.

Board Member Items;

Anne Sternhagen: Albert Lea Figure Skating Club Annual Skating Show will be held at the Arena this Saturday March 24th at 7pm and Sunday March 25th at 2pm.

Brian Hensley: On the letter sent out with the docks it states applicant must provide proof of insurance. He asked what this means and why. Nelson answered the applicant must provide proof of homeowners insurance including; policy number, current coverage and minimum of \$100,000 personal liability insurance. This information is usually all available on the declarations page of the policy. Hensley was wondering what is necessary for proof of insurance, many people don't want show what items they cover. Hensley stated it may help to ask more specifically what is being asked. Hensley advised we should be asking for a certificate of insurance with the city named as an additional insured. Sternhagen advised she believed it was so if someone was injured on her dock, the insurance would cover an

incident. Hensley is concerned this is not protecting the citizen or the city. After discussion city staff will consult with the City Attorney on this issue to look for clarification.

Mark Calderon: The Albert Lea Lakes Baseball Team is still looking for host families if anyone is interested please contact him.

Adjournment: Brian Hensley made a motion for adjournment and Mark Calderon seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm on a 5-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held April 17, 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