

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*April 16, 2019 5:30 pm
City Hall Room 109
221 East Clark Street*

Members Present:

Mark Calderon, Chair
Jodi Hartman
Steve Ball
Anne Sternhagen
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Jennifer Vogt-Erickson
Belinda Krysan

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Gary Hagen

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 Anne Sternhagen seconded the motion. The agenda was approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Approval of the Minutes:

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes for this evenings meeting and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Items:

Gary Hagen inquired how much an inclusive park, such as the city arena location, would cost tax payers after any grants have been applied vs. what a neighborhood park would cost.

Joe Grossman advised if the land was already owned by the city and city staff provided the labor a neighborhood playpark could cost up to \$100,000. Hagen asked what age group this would serve. Grossman advised a typical playpark is geared toward 6-12 year olds. This cost does not include a playpark building such as Academy or Hawthorne this would be for play equipment only. Grossman advised \$60,000 would be a medium range cost.

Hagen asked how much an inclusive park would cost the tax payer. Phil Wacholz advised the funding break down has not been decided. Wacholz also advised the first estimate of the play equipment for an inclusive park the Doppelhammers are working on was \$150,000. Wacholz advised this is a high end number and could be brought down. There is an increased cost to an inclusive park although it does serve a population who needs are not being served at this time. This estimate does not include the handicap surface area which is an additional expense. The cost break down would be decided by the city

manager and council and they would decide how a project like this would rank among other city priorities.

Hagen reiterated that an inclusive park may still cost the tax payers more than a neighborhood park even after private donations or grants are applied. Hagen supports an inclusive park although has concerns on how much this type of project would cost taxpayers.

Jason Howland advised using grant money and private donations would help alleviate the cost to the tax payer as well.

Hagen asked if the Morin Park gazebo project is in the CIP. Howland and Wacholz confirmed it is in the CIP, there is a 2021 place holder for it. Wacholz advised the funding break down is in thirds, approximately \$20,000 coming from the general fund, \$15,000 from park dedication fees (which currently is low or empty), \$20,000 private donations.

Action/Discussion Items:

Chairman Mark Calderon asked the board if anyone would like to volunteer to serve as Vice Chair of the board. Steve Ball volunteered himself to serve as Vice Chair and was approved by a 4-0 voice vote.

Old Business:

SHIP supported bike rental stations

Wacholz advised this pilot project will offer two bike rental stations, one will be located at Frank Hall Park in the parking lot next to the restrooms situated along the bike trail and another station at the North Broadway parking lot next to the retaining wall above the area of the splash pad.

The city will partner with entrepreneur Bill Howe who currently handles the rental of the i paddle port, horseshoe, pickleball, Frisbee golf and now bike station rentals as well.

Howe will have signage posted at the bike station including directions and general information. The bikes fold up and are stored in a locker. You visit a website and select the item you would like to rent, use your credit card for payment and receive a code to access the locker. You can rent one bike at a time or two which are rented by the hour. Once the signage is approved and the rental stations are set up there will be a "soft opening" and the city will assist in marketing and promoting the bike rental stations to the public. These stations are a unique to our community and allow people to rent equipment at a low cost. This equipment was purchased through a SHIP grant (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership). The storage lockers and bikes will be the property of the City of Albert Lea. The city will maintain the equipment and Howe will receive a portion of the proceeds to cover the cost of the rental service he provides. The stations are mobile and can be moved to other locations. Howe also has an instructional "how to" video that people can watch on the website. Wacholz has used one the bikes and assures it is easy to assemble and ride. The bikes will rent for \$2.00 per hour per bike.

Dan Borland memorial plaque for bench outside the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center

Linda and Quincy Borland attended the March meeting and requested a bench with a plaque in memory of the late Dan Borland to honor his extraordinary involvement in the community placed outside the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center. Linda had fond memories of sitting outside the theater with Dan while attending plays as it was one of his favorite places.

Jason Howland advised Albert Lea Community Theatre Board voted to pay for the cost of a memorial plaque to honor Dan Borland on a bench outside of the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center.

Wacholz is working on a draft policy for future use regarding donations to make sure the city is consistent moving forward and assisting to standardize the process.

The board was in agreement to recommend to city council for the plaque to be placed on an existing bench at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center that is on Water Street directly in front of the Marion Ross sign. Linda Borland requested the plaque to read "In memory of Dan Borland 1956-2019". Contingent that ACT is paying for the cost of the plaque. Approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Grossman added in the past people who have donated paid \$2,200 which included the cost of the concrete pad, bench and plaque. If someone places a request for a bench Grossman's thoughts are you still charge them the full amount to remain consistent regardless if the area is full of benches or not. Some areas already have plenty of benches although some of the wooden benches could be replaced. Grossman also noted the request from the Borland family is a unique circumstance as Dan was heavily involved in the community.

Howland inquired how this recommendation will be presented to the council. Nelson advised she will forward the meeting minutes including the motion to Joe Grossman and he can review and forward to be added to the City Council agenda.

Recreation: Report given by Bob Furland

- Furland advised the Governor's security staff will be in town tomorrow checking all the facilities and parks that will be used during the opener. Other groups in town are Minnesota Tourism and Sun Tracker Boats (handout of the GFO schedule of events becomes part of these minutes by reference).
- Furland reached out to the DNR and was put in touch with State Park staff regarding exploring partnering and using Helmer Myre State Park for future education and recreation opportunities.
- Furland advised Dick Herfindahl wrote an article in the Albert Lea Tribune on netting and harvesting northern eggs with the DNR. They pulled in a 6 pound walleye and they got a picture of a good sized northern as well.
- There will be a media event held on Friday of the fishing opener at the Three Oak Vineyards and Winery from 5am-5pm. Certain people have been chosen to be spokes people including; Jason Howland, Bob Furland, Mayor Vern Rasmussen, Susie Peterson (CVB), Dick Herfindahl and a few others. Furland advised they have installed wifi and will install a tent for overflow as well.

Jason Howland added the media guest list is already starting to fill up for the GFO. These are guests who signed up and want to go out with a boat host. There are close to 50 people signed up so far. This includes Minnesota travel bloggers and traditional media including print, radio and TV stations.

Howland advised they have not selected the Governor's boat host yet, six names were submitted for background checks and the Governor's office will select who will host the governor next week.

Parks: Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Working on snow removal last week and storm clean up from Thursday night.
- Getting docks installed and ready for the GFO.
- Some seasonal staff will be starting next week.
- Flowers will be going in soon.
- Jason Howland asked if the downtown flowers would be set up for the GFO, Joe Grossman advised he depends on the weather and hoping this is possible.
- Steve Ball asked if the gardens will be tilled soon. Grossman advised this also depends on the weather could be 10 days to 2 weeks.

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- 4 on 4 hockey is being played and Off the Wall Soccer started tonight.
- Field Day@ the arena was held Sunday April 14th from 1-4pm for kids and families to play soccer and yard games on the turf, approximately 40 people attended this event.

- 230 kids are signed up for Off the Wall Soccer, this number has stayed steady the last few years.
- The new Zamboni will be up and running soon. The company will be coming out to do some fine tuning before use. The 2012 Zamboni machine will be sent off to be rebuilt and it will be nice to have two dependable machines. Jason Howland inquired how much the price tag was on the new Zamboni. Furland advised approximately \$110,000-\$112,000. Anne Sternhagen asked if the older machine would be sold. Furland advised the Olympia will be sold eventually. This machine is over 20 years old and it is likely to sell for few thousand dollars.
- Furland has been working on maintenance and pricing for repairs necessary to the arena.
- A new full time Ice Arena & Recreation Coordinator position has been posted, this person will work evenings in the winter and help with recreation activities in the summer time.

Senior Center: No report this month.

Board Member Items:

Steve Ball advised everyone is pushing to get projects completed and cleaned up for the GFO.

Furland added there will be a kid's version of the Rock-n-Roll the Lakes bike ride on May 18th starting at Frank Hall Park. Furland is hoping for 50 to 100 kids to participate in this event. This will include a bike rodeo and police officers will be escorting kids down the bike trail and back. July 13th will be the Rock-n-Roll the Lakes bike ride. Last year 260 people participated in the ride. Furland is hoping to get 400 participants this year and advertising for this event will start next week.

Thursdays on Fountain will began on May 30th, Community Band will be performing.

Mark Calderon advised he is now part of the Albert Lea Figure Skating Club and the club will be asking about the concession stand pricing and about working in the arena concession stand as well.

Jason Howland advised the Albert Lea Community Theater play of the season is Bedroom Farce, which is a comedy. Auditions for the summer musical are May 6th and 7th, the musical will be State Fair music by Rodgers and Hammerstein. He is expecting a lot of kids over the age of eight to audition. The first weekend in May concerts include, Zed Leppelin, a Led Zeppelin tribute band will be having a show May 4th, John Denver tribute concert May 10th (same night as "Hooked on Broadway" fishing opener event), Whalen and the Willows concert May 18th, which is a group of local musicians and Tex Mex music group May 25th which is a local band.

Howland advised the city has a general fund surplus which is significant this year. The City Manager had suggestions on where to use these funds. Some of the surplus funds will have to be kept in reserve although some can be spent or put into certain funds. Last year some of the surplus funds were put into creating an economic development fund used for local small businesses and it is being suggested to put some money back into this fund to replenish it. Another suggestion has been to put the money toward a housing fund. Also suggested was to put \$100,000 into a fund for Snyder Field. Howland isn't sure how council sits with this as the land is owned by MnSCU (Minnesota State Colleges and Universities) and the city leases the land. The longest lease the city can get with this property is ten years. The fields need significant work which could cost several million dollars. Not sure if using \$100,000 toward repairs to land that is leased and may not be available after the ten year lease is a useful investment of this money.

Howland thoughts are maybe this money could be used for an inclusive park in the Lake Chapeau area or the pavilion project at Morin Park. Howland will toss this idea to the council and see what they think. It would be good seed money for some of these projects that would be a benefit to the community.

Grossman advised another need is the Pickleball court which is a highly used. The courts are 30-40 years old. They were converted tennis courts. The courts were not in very good shape so they put sports courts in that were taken from Morin Park. The sports court was there for around 10 years and the surface underneath deteriorating. Money was also spent to resurface although it won't last as it needs to be redone. Howland asked if this was in the CIP, Grossman advised it is not. Howland remembers the pickleball group had a complaint about algae last year. Grossman advised the courts are surrounded by spruce trees to block the wind which were planted over 30 years ago. It was still windy for the players and so a screen was added which caused not enough air movement and algae formed. The group was also asking for more courts as pickleball has become a popular sport.

Adjournment: Steve Ball made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 6:22pm, and Anne Sternhagen seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Mark Calderon
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all locations are in Albert Lea unless otherwise noted)

* Events are open to the public

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday, May 9		
Noon to 9 p.m.	Registration	Country Inn & Suites
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	* Waterville Hatchery Open House	Waterville Hatchery, Waterville, MN
Friday, May 10		
On Your Own	Breakfast	Individual Lodging Accommodations
5 to 10 a.m.	Live Media Event	Three Oak Vineyards & Winery
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Registration	Country Inn & Suites
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	* Big Island Rendezvous	N Broadway Ave & Fountain St
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Kids' Fishing Event	South Edgewater Park
Tours		
10:30 a.m. to noon	Reel Dredging	South Edgewater Park
10:30 a.m. to noon	Myre-Big Island & Blazing Star Trail	Myre-Big Island State Park
10:30 a.m. to noon	Fishing for History: Downtown Walk	Interchange Wine & Coffee Bistro
Noon to 1 p.m.	Lunch	At participating restaurants
1 to 3:30 p.m.	SPAM Museum Tour	SPAM Museum, Austin, MN (transportation provided)
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Casting for Fun: Biking, Canoeing or Kayaking	The Boathouse at Brookside Park
1:30 to 4 p.m.	Beer/Wine Tasting: Pelican Breeze II Cruise	The Pelican Breeze II Dock
3 to 5 p.m.	Corks & Bobbers Wine Tasting & Tour	Three Oak Vineyards & Winery
4:30 to 10 p.m.	* "Hooked on Broadway" Community Picnic & Dance	Broadway Ave between Fountain St & Main St
7 to 9 p.m.	* Biggest Fish Story	Albert Lea Art Center
4 to 7 p.m.	Boat Host Social	American Legion
Saturday, May 11		
On Your Own	Breakfast	Individual Lodging Accommodations
7 to 9 a.m.	Registration	Country Inn & Suites
8 a.m.	* Opening Ceremony & Official Launch	South Edgewater Park
9 a.m. to noon	* Blue Zone Walk/Run	Fountain Lake
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Shore Lunch	South Edgewater Park
4 p.m.	Fishing Challenge Ends	
5:30 p.m.	Celebration Reception & Dinner	Wedgewood Cove Golf Club
Sunday, May 12		
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Breakfast: \$7 with your GFO Lanyard	American Legion

For detailed information about the scheduled tours and specific addresses to various events, visit: MNGovernorsOpener.com or RegOnline.com/gfo2019