

PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

*April 17, 2018 5:30 pm  
City Arena  
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.*

**Members Present:**

Mark Calderon  
Dan Borland  
Brian Hensley  
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.  
Anne Sternhagen  
Tristian Pectorious  
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson 5:38PM

**Members Absent:**

Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

**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 Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor  
Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

Gary Hagen

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mark Calderon made a motion to approve the agenda for this evenings meeting and Anne Sternhagen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 6-0 voice vote. (Jennifer Vogt-Erickson absent for vote)

**Approval of Minutes:**

Brian Hensley made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting and Dan Borland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 6-0 voice vote. (Jennifer Vogt-Erickson absent for vote)

**Public Items:** None

**Action/Discussion Items:** None

**Old Business:** None

**Update Items;**

**Senior Center:** Paula Juveland will be retiring after 15 ½ years of service, her retirement party will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Senior Citizen Center. All are welcome and cake and coffee will be served. This position has been posted.

**Parks;**

- Joe Grossman provided board members the “2018 Park Department Priority Projects List” which becomes part of these minutes by reference.
- Parks has been busy with snow removal.
- An Arborist was hired.

Vern Rasmussen asked if there are plans to install drinking fountains at Morin Park any time soon. Four drinking fountains are planned to be installed, including Morin Park. There will be a comedy show fundraiser put together by Nick Hanke at Wedgewood Cove on this weekend for this specific project.

**Arena;**

- Bob Furland advised the Ducks Unlimited Banquet was held at the arena April 14<sup>th</sup> and attended by 260 people. The snow did not deter attendance.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> the MN Mavericks, AAA hockey team rented some ice for eight hours for team tryouts. There were approximately 50-60 people from Northern Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota that came in for the day.
- Furland advised he met with McKinstry, a full-service design, build, operate and maintain firm, to discuss energy savings possibilities during facility improvement projects to help fund upgrades to help save future energy costs. McKinstry will be sending a report for city staff to review.

**Recreation:**

- Furland advised himself and a committee of a dozen people are planning a bike ride this summer along with the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. This ride will include a 12, 25 and 50 mile routes. This ride will help promote and advocate for local trails. This event will be held Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be music in the North Lot at the end of the ride and the 112 will be serving food and drinks. Registration for the ride will start in mid-May.
- 12 Dates are booked for Thursdays on the Fountain which kicks off May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Furland and Davis met with SMART BUS regarding transportation opportunities for children this summer to playpark programs and events.
- The high school baseball team has been practicing indoors at the arena due to the weather.
- Summer registrations are now open and people are starting to sign up for swimming lessons and summer programs.

**Jennifer Davis;**

- Off the Wall Soccer starts this evening. Numbers are up from last year, 233 kids are signed up total so far. Davis advised she is always looking for coaches. (Ages PreK-10U)
- Adult summer sand volleyball and softball signups are going on now. Women, men and co-ed volleyball and also men and co-ed softball.
- Field Day @ the Arena will be held this Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am-12pm.
- Family Mystery movie from April 15<sup>th</sup> was postponed due to weather has been rescheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Summer staff positions have been filled although Davis is always looking for lifeguards.
- The Playpark schedules have changed this year, three playparks will be open full time, Academy, Hawthorne and Sondergaard with three staff at each park and will be open every day from 9am-4pm. The playpark programs will be free this year, including dance and dance tots. There will be an obstacle course and Nerf wars and some new activities this season.

**Board Member Items;**

**Dan Borland:** Inquired if the Parks and Recreation Board could work with the school bond proposal coming up. There is a meeting this evening at Sibley School. Furland advised if the bond passes it would be nice for Parks and Recreation to have availability of the turf for recreation programs.

**Brian Hensley:** Advised the Paddling Film Festival (90 minutes of short films featuring paddling) will be held at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center starting at 7pm. May 31<sup>st</sup> Thursdays on the Fountain will have music that evening also, Furland advised Albert Lea Community Band will play at 6pm, with vendors starting at 5:30pm. Hensley was asking if there could be signage put up somewhere by the skate park that would advise the public there are public restrooms at this location and a public dock. (City Beach) Joe Grossman advised he could have a sign put up along the fence pointing and arrow toward the restrooms.

**Mark Calderon:** The Albert Lea Lakes Baseball Team is coming back for the 2018 season. A board was created that will run the team, the team will no longer be run by an individual. Calderon is working with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs as well. They are still looking for a couple more host families for players if anyone is interested please contact him.

**Adjournment:** Marc Calderon made a motion for adjournment and Brian Hensley seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm on a 7-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held May 15, 2018 at 5:30 at the City Arena.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Nelson  
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

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Vern Rasmussen Sr.  
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman