

PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

*April 19, 2021 5:45 pm  
Via Zoom*

**Members Present:**

Steve Ball (chair)  
Jen Vogt-Erickson  
Whitney Sauer  
Amy Leach  
Tony Segura  
Jodi Hartman  
Rich Yost  
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff in Attendance:**

Bob Furland, Recreation Manager  
Jennifer Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor  
Ryan Hajek, Asst Director of Public Works  
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

None

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:47p.m. by Steve Ball.

**Adopt Agenda:**

Rich Yost made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. Motion declared passed.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Tony Segura made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting and Amy Leach seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. Motion declared passed.

**Public Items:**

Steve Ball spoke on the Brookside Walking Trail by the Fountain Lake Channel. Steve spoke with a community member who would like for the city to remove the thick, high underbrush on the lake side of the trail to allow for more visibility of the lake from the trail. Jason mentioned that he felt there was plenty of lake view along the area of the two cemeteries. Jason also discussed that much of the thick area was trees and that we would not want to remove that. Ryan Hajek said that city staff was looking at some areas along the trail to clean up and that he would be happy to look at this area as well.

Steve Ball discussed the city policy for mowing dock spaces. There is concern that renters of dock spaces along Lake Shore Dr (gravel road) have to maintain their grass however those renters along Lakeview Blvd do not. He stated that if more work is being done to maintain those spaces they should be considered for a lower rental rate. Afton Wacholz shared that minor upkeep of their dock spaces is

included in the dock ordinance. Ryan Hajek added that there is much more grass along Lakeview Blvd. that needs to be kept up by city staff. The grass by the dock spaces on Lake Shore Dr is very minimal and is best is taken care of with a weed eater instead of a large city mower. Amy Leach also asked about possibly adding docks spaces along Lakeview Blvd by the east entrance to Edgewater Park. Staff shared that the area floods there and is also being kept open for the general public to fish. Rich Yost asked about the status of staining the fishing piers, specifically by Dane Bay and at Edgewater. Ryan will be checking with staff on this.

Steve Ball had a community member ask about the playground equipment at Pioneer Park. Steve thought they said that the equipment was old and needing to be replaced but after visiting the park he believes the citizen was referencing that the age appropriateness of the equipment was not suitable for his grandchildren. Steve thought that the equipment looked in good shape, just maybe dirty from the winter. Staff shared that there is a mix of styles and age appropriateness at the parks across the city to be sure they have variety. Jen Vogt-Erickson did state that she would like to see more options for toddler age children at our parks. Ryan discussed the replacement of equipment at both Memorial and Sondergaard parks this summer.

Bob Furland spoke with Wah Paw about the possibility of having a Cane Ball court at one of the parks. This sport is similar to volleyball however it is only played with feet and not hands. Bob and Parks staff will be meeting to look at options that may be available for this request.

**Action/Discussion Items:**

None

**Old Business:**

**Recreation:** Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Bob and Jenny were a part of the Open Dock Rental day last Friday. There were people lining up already at noon the day before. There were only a total of 11 cars in line, more than likely due to the very low number of docks available to the public.
- Garden rentals and pavilion reservations are very busy right now. Most of the public garden plots are rented. Pavilions will be opening up again starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There were 23 applicants for the Recreation Coordinator position. Staff interviewed 5 candidates and will be conducting second interviews the end of the week.
- The Marion Ross Theater elevator work has been completed. The City is waiting on State inspection of the repairs.
- Contractors have started work at the Aquatic Center. Staff continue to meet to discuss the plans for opening and the daily operations.

**Parks:** Report given by Ryan Hajek as follows;

- Joe Grossman is currently out on medical leave; Mike Westney, Parks foreman, is the lead for Parks while Joe is out.
- New playground equipment has been received. Staff will start working on that installation in the near future.
- There was an attempted break-in at Sondergaard and a door was hit at Eberhardt. Repairs will be needed due to these situations.
- Staff continue with tree inspections around the city.
- Ryan was involved with the conversations at the City Council workshop in regards to the future of Snyder Fields. Jason Howland informed the board and staff that there are reserve funds to be allocated however decision still need to be made on if that will be repairs to the current site an what exactly they will be. Here is the list of repairs/improvements that were indicated as top needs: tiling, concession upgrade, back stops, ADA paving access to stands, dugouts, repairs to lights.

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

- Summer ice has been filling up. The MN Mavericks have scheduled again this year as well as the local Tiger Hockey Club for 4 on 4.
- Dry Floor events are also being scheduled as guidelines allow.

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

- The City received one proposal from an outside organization to partner with for the operations of the Senior Center. Staff will be discussing going forward with the YMCA.

**Board Member Items:**

- Steve thanked Ryan Hajek for the work on this garden plot that has been affected by flooding.
- Jodi stated that rec youth soccer, through RUSH Soccer, has started and utilize both Lakeview Park and Memorial. She did state it would be nice to have more portable toilets at those locations as there is only one. There was mention that the youth association may be looking at providing additional.
- Jason Howland shared that a presentation was made to the Council from an outside company to operate an electric scooter rental in Albert Lea. It would be run through an app on a smart phone and it was believed to be rented by the minute at a share price.
- Tony Segura asked about the bike rental that is located at the North Lot. Staff stated that repairs will be made soon and the rental station will be available. The rentals for kayaks and canoes by Frank Hall Park will also be available.
- Rich asked staff about the status of the bathrooms at Snyder Fields and the concessions stand for their tournaments in the next couple of months. Staff would check on this.

**Adjournment:** Rich Yost made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. 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