

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*May 15, 2018 5:30 pm
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.*

Members Present:

Dan Borland
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Anne Sternhagen
Jennifer Vogt-Erickson
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Mark Calderon
Tristian Pestorous
Brian Hensley

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Ben Schuller, Rec. Assistant/Intern

Others in Attendance:

Marquerite Kirchner, 2731 Campus Lane
Faith Ryan, 2728 Campus Lane
Jan Ruble, 2734 Campus Lane
Jim Stoen, 2910 Campus Drive
Leo Wach, 2914 Campus Drive
Beth Erickson, 2928 Campus Drive
Beverly Grotsun, 2733 Campus Lane
David & Melissa Doppelhammer, 675 Meadow Lane
Craig & Belinda Kyrsan, 519 Meadow Lane

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. by Chair Vern Rasmussen, Sr.

Approval of Agenda:

Dan Borland 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 Minutes:

Dan Borland made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2018 meeting and Anne Sternhagen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Items: David Doppelhammer reenergized the conversation regarding developing a park in the Lake Chapeau neighborhood. Doppelhammer advised there has been one or two pushes previously and this time he would like to see this project through to completion. The closest park to the area is Shoff Park which is across Hwy 13 and approximately one and a quarter miles away additionally Shoff Park has no play equipment. The next closest park is Wedgewood Park which is also a mile and a quarter away and the kids would have to travel along co 46 and cross which is a busy road. The next closest parks are

Edgewater and Lakeview Park which are one and three quarter miles away. Kids are not able to safely walk or bike to any of these locations.

Doppelhammer advised a park would not only benefit the neighborhood it would benefit the families attending events at the City Area, which hosts events all year long. The ice arenas are heavily used during the winter season and it would be beneficial to have an outdoor ice rink at the park as well. The park would also be consistent with the City Blue Zones initiative by promoting physical activity. This would give area kids a place to go instead of spending time indoors playing video games and keep the kids from playing in the street. A park would also provide a walking destination for people of all ages to congregate. Doppelhammer asked what could he and the neighborhood residents of this area need to do to make this park possible, such as fundraising and asking for donations.

Joe Grossman advised the decision is ultimately up to the City Council, it would also help to raise fifty percent of the funds for the park. Grossman estimated a park would cost \$50,000.

Park Board Commissioner Vern Rasmussen advised this request has been previously discussed and isn't sure what or if any park dedication fees are available for this area.

Jason Howland asked about a location for the park. He brought up the Mayo property and city owned property south of the area. This location makes sense as it is fairly central and the city is already maintaining this property to an extent.

Doppelhammer advised there are approximately 75 households in the area and also pointed out the City Arena would benefit from a park in the area as well.

There was discussion and speculation regarding if money is available for a park. Marquerite Kirchner advised she brought up the topic of a park to the city council 18 years ago and was told there was no money available.

Councilman Jason Howland commended the neighbors for attending this meeting and this shows their commitment to the project. Money could be raised by assistance from service groups, fundraisers or grant opportunities.

Commissioner Rasmussen asked Joe Grossman if there is any money in the CIP for this type of project. Grossman did not know of any available funds.

Many senior citizen members in attendance have been heavily involved with the Save Our Hospital initiative and this has taken a lot of time and money. It was mentioned that maybe the younger families in the neighborhood could work on a fundraising project. Commissioner Rasmussen advised maybe someone could take the initiative to reach out to the neighborhood to see if other folks would like to form a committee and start fundraising or somehow donate to the cause. Maybe reach out to the Tiger Hills group and see how they went about fundraising for their neighborhood park. Next steps may be to organize and get some estimates on what type of amenities the park would offer and figure out a way to raise some funds.

Commissioner Rasmussen also commented park attendance is not like it used to be and times have changed and not as many kids spend time at the parks like they used to.

Quorum was lost at 6:25pm as Anne Sternhagen exited the meeting.

Action/Discussion Items: None

Old Business: None

Update Items;

Senior Center: New director will be hired soon.

Arena: After grad party is coming up, the last sheet of ice will come out at the end of June for the Chapel Con and Dog Show events.

Parks: Locations for the global positioning equipment (geological markers) for the dredging are up and will continue to be used after this project is completed for other uses.

Recreation: Soccer will be wrapping up soon, staff is working on getting the pool up and running for summer along with aquatic and recreational staff orientations. Volleyball and softball has started and the playparks will be opening up June 4th.

- Albert Lea was awarded the opportunity to host the 2019 MN Governor's Fishing Opener, 400 Volunteers will be needed for this weekend event.
- Rock-n-Roll the Lakes Bike Ride will be July 14th which includes 10, 25 and 50 mile routes. MN Bike Alliance will be assisting with this event as well. This is planned to be an annual event. Attendance is being projected at 500 and may grow to 1,500 within the next three years. The event and group will give opportunities to lobby for area trails as well.

Board Member Items: None

Adjournment: Meeting lost its quorum Anne Sternhagen exited at 6:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Vern Rasmussen Sr.
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman