

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2021 5:45 pm
Via Zoom

Members Present:

Jen Vogt-Erickson
Amy Leach
Tony Segura
Jodi Hartman

Members Absent:

Steve Ball
Whitney Sauer
Rich Yost

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Ryan Hajek, Asst Director of Public Works

Others in Attendance:

None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob Furland.

Adopt Agenda:

Tony Segura made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Amy Leach seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 4-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Jodi Hartman made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 meeting and Jen Vogt-Erickson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 4-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

None

Old Business:

Ryan Hajek gave an update on Snyder Complex and stated that there has been recent conversation between the City and Riverland to discuss going forward with making improvements on the current site. Work on tiling could begin as early as this fall but more likely this work will start next year. Other areas that will begin seeing improvements are the concessions/bathrooms building and repairs on the lights.

Recreation: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Farmers Market begins this coming Wednesday.
- The main pool at the Aquatic Center will begin being filled today. Phase 1 of the bathhouse repairs are complete and little repairs are continuing to get ready to open on June 5. Since

the facility sat unused for 18 months there are things that have needed to be replaced and repaired.

- Staff are still being hired to fill lifeguarding, attendant and play park leader positions. We hosted a lifeguard certification course and were able to complete training for 10 guards who will work for us this summer. Another 8 more are still needing to certify or recertify.
- Registration for swim lessons open next Monday, with session one starting June 14 and session two starting July 12. Water Aerobics will also begin June 6.
- We had 16 total sand volleyball teams register to play for this summer season.
- Bob is working with a group, including the county, to discuss the trail to Hartland. There is hopes of establishing a Friends of Bent Tree Trail group to work with Bike MN to help establish the group and work on funding options.
- Albert Lea Youth Baseball hosted their first home tournament. Bob stated it went very well.
- Thursdays on Fountain will begin May 27.
- Aquatic Center will open on June 5.
- The Recreation Coordinator position has been filled and Danielle Bakken will begin on June 21.

Parks: Report given by Ryan Hajek as follows;

- Tree trimming is taking place, specifically by the Brookside Trail, to create more visibility of the lake.
- Staff is looking at replacing tile in the ditch near Edgewater Bay Pavilion to clean-up the swamp environment.
- Continuing to spray weeds as well as setting up mosquito spraying which will begin in June.
- Work is being done on the light pole mounts for flags uptown, as they were just not strong enough.
- Three staff are currently off or on light duty due to shoulder surgeries.
- Discussion on the dead carp and what can be done to prevent or to help clean this up around the lakeshore.
- The ropes on the equipment at Pioneer Park has started to fray exposing steel cables. Ryan is looking into replacing these ropes but they are extremely expensive. For the time being they have been fixed with tape and staff will look into getting this repair into their upcoming budget.

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- No report

Senior Center: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- The YMCA will now be operating the daily schedule at the Senior Center. Recreation will still assist with special events and trips. Soft opening will take place the week after Memorial weekend with the opening date of June 7.

Board Member Items:

- Jen Vogt Erickson discussed Friends of the Library book sale June 17-19 in the garages at City Hall. She also discussed some safety concerns with the visibility by Troy-Hammer park with the increased traffic due to the Bridge St construction. Ryan will check into this.
- Tony updated the board on the status of the theater. Hope Church has began services again and Neil Lang has already scheduled several events for late summer.

Adjournment: Tony Segura made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Amy Leach seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 4-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman