

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*June 19, 2018 5:30 pm
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.*

Members Present:

Dan Borland
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)
Mark Calderon
Brian Hensley

Members Absent:

Tristian Pestorious
Anne Sternhagen
Jennifer-Vogt Erickson

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager
Ben Schuller, Rec. Assistant/Intern

Others in Attendance:

David & Melissa Doppelhammer, 675 Meadow Lane
Gary Hagen, 501 Albert Lea St

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 Dan Borland 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 May 15, 2018 meeting and Mark Calderon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Items: David and Melissa Doppelhammer entered at 5:33pm to further discuss the proposed park from the last meeting. Melissa now believes the park should be an inclusive /adaptive park, the closest one being in Rochester and Redwing. Melissa stated that the City of Redwing has a population of 16,230, and the City of Albert Lea would be a great spot for a park like this. Melissa stated that individuals will drive up to an hour and a half to play at an adaptable park, because there are not many of them in certain parts of the state. The park board and the Doppelhammers came to an agreement that, in order to move forward, we need to pursue grant opportunities. Melissa then went on to hand out images of ideas of adaptable parks in the state. The Doppelhammers left at 6:07pm.

Action/Discussion Items: Jerry Gabrielatos started the discussion regarding the Albert Lea Walking/Biking Project. He mentioned the signs the City had made are being put up around town that help promote walking and biking. The idea of this project, he says, is to make noticeable how we use our space downtown, and how much parking we really have. Jerry introduced the 'Park(ing) Day' event to

the board, stating that it will be held in the water tower lot, and will try and show the public the other ways parking lots could be used. Jerry mentioned that Ben Schuller was working on the planning for this event.

Commissioner Rasmussen suggested that City Hall would be a good location for the Park Board meeting location, due to it being a 'centralized location'. Brian Hensley and Dan Borland believe it should remain where it is, in the Recreation office because it is close to the Park and Recreation staff, and because the attendance for the meetings is usually low. Jerry Gabrielatos then went on to mention that when there is a large attendance for a meeting, people can get pushed into a corner and go un-noticed.

Mark Calderon made a motion to approve the idea of City Hall Council Chambers being a pilot project for the Park Board meeting place for 2-3 months. Dan Borland seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Old Business: None

Update Items;

Senior Center: Gabrielatos mentioned that the new Senior Center Director Carol Marth has started working, and fits right in. He mentioned that she was the first hire under the new hiring process, and that it worked out well.

Arena: Bob Furland says the Mavericks AAA camp is next week, and they are getting ready for Chapel Con. He said they already have 150 booths for the event, last year's total was 75.

Parks: Joe Grossman mentioned the New Denmark Park Fountain is now running, and that they are a little behind on projects yet. Parks has just replaced the Academy play park building's roof.

Board Member Items: Rasmussen, Sr. asking about the attendance for softball leagues around town, and if there is anything that could be done to raise attendance. The board agreed that attendance not just in town, but in the area, has been decreasing over the years.

Hensley is asking how the meetings for the new athletic facility are going, and is wondering about progress on avenues for partnerships. He also was curious about public use for the track, due to other residents' curiosity and using the track anyways.

Adjournment: Dan Borland made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 6:25pm, and Brian Hensley seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved on a 4-0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Schuller
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Vern Rasmussen Sr.
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman