

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*August 20, 2019 5:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
221 East Clark Street*

Members Present:

Mark Calderon, Chair
Jodi Hartman
Steve Ball
Anne Sternhagen
Jason Howland (Ex-officio) (arrived at 5:35pm)

Members Absent:

Jennifer Vogt-Erickson

Staff in Attendance:

Joe Grossman, Superintendent of Parks
Jennifer Davis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Lon Sorenson, Ice Arena and Recreation Coordinator
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Gary Hagen
Gail Levorson
John Baunfiend
Brian Herfindahl
Trevor Herfindahl

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Mark Calderon.

Approval of the Minutes:

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes for this evenings meeting and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 4-0 voice vote. (Jason Howland was absent for the vote).

Approval of Agenda:

Steve Ball 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. (Jason Howland was absent for the vote).

Public Items:

Gail Levorson and John Baunfiend presented to the board on behalf of the Albert Lea Pickle ball Club. Gail provided a brief introduction of the equipment used for pickle ball as well as a poster board of pictures displaying the courts at Frank Hall and their degree of deterioration. Seven years ago the club was started with less than a half a dozen members at the time. The clubs goal was to turn an unused asset (the former tennis courts) into a vital asset to the community. Shared costs between the city and the club allowed for a resurfacing and the formation of six pickle ball courts. The club funded the nets, posts and fencing through grants and private donations. They also fund the basic upkeep of the courts. The club has now grown to over 90 members. The annual club membership is \$20/month to help fund the continual upkeep of the courts. Gail stated that the average weekday use from 7:30-10:30am is around 25-30 players with an additional 20 playing later in the day.

They recently hosted the 5th annual Summer Sizzler in Albert Lea. 118 people participated, coming from South Dakota, St Cloud, Iowa, Owatonna and Mason City to just name a few. They generate revenue through entrance fees from the players.

The club takes pride in providing lessons through Community Education as well assisting in grant work to provide pickle ball equipment to local elementary schools.

The club has come to the Advisory Board (per direction from the City Council) to request that the remaining tennis court at Frank Hall be converted to provide four additional pickle ball courts in addition to the current six already there. They feel that the tennis court is under-utilized and that their club would benefit from the space on a daily basis.

John thanked the city and the parks superintendent Joe Grossman for their support over the last seven years to provide a great pickle ball experience to our community.

Jason Howland confirmed that this tennis court is the last remaining public city court in our community.

Joe Grossman confirmed this and also stated that the high school courts are for public use however during the fall and spring seasons the high school tennis teams are utilizing those courts most evenings.

Joe Grossman stated the tennis court at Frank Hall is in poor condition due to its location in the shade and the wind screens not allowing for adequate wind flow through the court to help it clear of debris from the trees. The pickle ball and tennis courts on Frank Hall are scheduled to be repainted and crack filled in the next year.

Brian Herfindahl and his son, Trevor, spoke in support of keeping the last remaining public tennis court. Brian understands that the high school courts are also an option however the convenience of lights and the location on the opposite city of town make the Frank Hall court appealing for use. Joe Grossman agreed that we need more tennis courts in our park system. Jodi Hartman added that her family plays both activities and finds benefit to our community through them both. Her family will go directly to the high school courts because they know they will be able to play on multiple courts at one time.

Mark asked the board for any action on this item. Anne Sternhagen motioned to keep the tennis court a functioning tennis court. There was no second. The board agreed to bring back as a discussion item in the future.

Action/Discussion Items: Discussion items were discussed among the conversation with the public items on this topic.

Old Business: None

Recreation: Report given by Jennifer Davis

- Co-Ed Softball and Women's and Co-Ed Volleyball will start in early September. The fall flyer will be going out to the schools mid-September and will highlight a Mystery Movie, MEA Activities, Mite In-House Hockey, Halloween Skate and a Candle Light Walk.
- Pool closed for the season on August 11th. Staff continued to work on cleaning and seasonal shut down for the following week. Jason Howland asked if the temporary fix that was done prior to season opening will be fixed permanently. Jenny stated that an assessment is scheduled for further discussion on the outlook of extended repair. There are other areas that could benefit from upgrades including the flow of the locker rooms. Joe Grossman stated that the large pool has already surpassed it's life expectancy and the mixing of an old facility with new features can create further repair needs.
- One more beach yoga class will be held on Monday August 26th.

Parks: Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Parks assisted the pickle ball club to prepare for their tournament
- Continued work on grounds maintenance and downtown flowers and landscaping. Seeking helpers to water flowers until weather permits.
- Cleanup and damage assessments are wrapping up from the wind storm that affected our community late July. Continued winds keep loosening up branches. Bancroft Bay Trail had

significant damage to trees and the crew is unable to access to get equipment in. Trails have been shut down at these locations.

- Basketball courts at Valley and Troy Hammer are being poured in the next couple of weeks.

City Arena: Report given by Lon Sorenson as follows;

- Ice scheduling is underway for Waldorf, the high school teams, youth hockey, and figure skating
- Dasher boards are going up. Nystrom Arena will be painted next week and the first skate will be the Tuesday after Labor Day.
- Contracted painting is currently being done on the Nystrom west wall.
- Figure Skating registrations takes place this week and youth hockey will be mid-September.

Senior Center: No report this month.

Board Member Items:

Jason Howland shared that the Dan Borland Memorial plaque was installed on the bench in front of the Marion Ross Theater. This was donated by ACT. Jason also stated that the Marion Ross picture sign on the exterior of the north side of the building is peeling, causing water to leak under the picture. It was discussed that Tic Toc made this sign and it is unable to be repaired. A new sign would need to be purchased. This repair is in the 2020 budget.

Mark Calderon shared an email from board member Rich Yost who was absent from the meeting. Rich voiced his support on behalf of the youth baseball association for the current discussions for the improvements of Snyder Field. Mark discussed the Lakers Baseball situation that ended their summer season early due to a decision by league management. The Lakers are currently looking into starting their own league along with the Ames, IA team. Discussions are still in the works but Mark is hopeful that the Lakers will be back next year playing in a different league.

Adjournment: Steve Ball made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting at 6:24pm, and Anne Sternhagen seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved on a 5-0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Mark Calderon
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman