

PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2017 5:30 pm  
City Arena  
701 Lake Chapeau Dr.

**Members Present:**

Mark Calderon  
Dan Borland  
Chris Utz, Chairman  
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.  
Brian Hensley  
Jane Grund  
Anne Sternhagen  
Jason Howland (Ex-officio)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff in Attendance:**

Joe Grossman, Parks Interim Director  
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager  
Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

Gary Hagen, 501 Albert Lea St., Albert Lea

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Chris Utz.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Agenda was approved on a 7-0 voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from August 15, 2017 meeting were approved on a 7-0 voice vote.

**Public Items:**

**Action/Discussion Items:** Bob Furland opened up discussion regarding the handling of process of public requests to the Parks and Recreation Department. The recommended plan by staff as follows;

- A group or individual's first contact would be with city staff. City staff would discuss the proposal and give the group feedback and/or suggestions. This would give city staff a chance to research and comment on project proposals to suggest if the project would be feasible. This would also allow for early design changes if needed to keep the project moving forward.
- Proposal would go to City Council with an estimated cost, city council would review and may send the proposal to Park Board for recommendations.
- The proposal would be reviewed for consideration by the Park Board. The Park Board could ask the group/individual for items such as a letter of support, signatures and/or funds raised. If the park board recommends approval the proposal would be forwarded back to the City Council for final approval.

If a group or individual approaches the park board member they would be directed to speak to city staff to start the review process as stated above. Dan Borland had concerns the group/individual may be intimidated by going before the council. The staff contact before the council meeting review should

help alleviate this concern. This process has not been solidified and is still open for discussion. This process has been used in other communities. Staff is looking for feedback and recommendations from the park board at this time.

This process may allow for a project to be added to the “wish list” or to the CIP as a future project.

Grossman commented it will also be helpful once a parks master plan has been adopted.

**Old Business:** None

**Update Items;**

**Senior Center:**

- The annual volunteer appreciation dinner is coming up.

**Parks:**

- Joe Grossman shared a plan and quote for the little Hayek Park playpark equipment, the play equipment cost is \$27,303 which included a grant that allowed for a 35% discount. This cost does not include the fall protection, concrete border or net and posts. The total cost of the playground will be approximately \$40,000. Grossman advised he would like to purchase the playground equipment this year as no money has been spent out of the CIP.
- Splash pad landscaping has been completed.
- Two new infields were put in at Edgewater and Academy Parks.
- Picnic shelter will be installed at the City Beach.
- Dolly Sichko memorial bench will be installed October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- Parks Department has been busy picking up leaves and fall tree planning will begin in a couple of weeks.
- The fountains will be shut down soon as well as the docks need to be off the lake and garden plots vacated by October 15, 2017.
- Community Ed has placed some rocks near the boat house for kids to climb on.
- Plants and flowers have begun to come up at the pollinator park at Brookside.

**Arena:**

- Both rinks are up and running and being used.
- Waldorf has played three games already.
- Amarillo Bulls played vs. Iowa Bull as an expedition game.
- Figure skating has started and gained six new members from Mason City.
- Ice sports are going very well and youth hockey will grow by two or three teams this year.

**Recreation:**

- Parks and Recreation will be partnering with the YMCA on a bus trip this fall to Tweite’s Family Farm and Pumpkin Patch located in Byron, MN. The cost of busing will be shared.
- There will be a candlelight walk held at Edgewater Park on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm including a luminary walk, s’mores and music provided by Ron & Steve Unplugged from 8-9pm at the bonfire.
- Thursdays on Fountain at Fountain Lake Gazebo will continue next year as they have been very popular with attendance averaging 475.

**Work Plan Items:** Jennifer Davis will be attending the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and review programs and events including cost and attendance.

**Board Member Items:** Brian Hensely inquired if staff has heard anything from the group proposing a disability play park. Staff has not had any recent contact. Hensley thought it may be a good idea to check with them for the opportunity to have some equipment at Hayek Park. Bob Furland advised he would reach out to the group to see if they have any interest to pursue this opportunity.

Vern Rasmussen has received comments from people the Christmas decorations and lighting could be improved.

Mark Calderon commented on the good attendance for pickleball at Frank Hall Park. There was a question on the usage of canoes and kayaks from the self-service paddles rental at Golden Point Launch located at Frank Hall Park. Bob Furland advised he would inquire with Bill Howe to find out. Furland advised Howe has been working on making the rentals easier, currently you need to set up the rental a day in advance. Howe is also working on a rental box for pickleball equipment and Frisbee golf as well.

Brian Hensely commented Alden has a growing pickleball group. Furland also advised the Albert Lea Area Pickleball group is looking for a space to play indoors.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm on a 7-0 voice vote. Next meeting will be held October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30 at the City Arena.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Nelson  
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

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Chris Utz  
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman