

**PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 20, 2026 5:30 pm
Senior Center

Members Present:

Kent Rahn
Wende Taylor
Tom Jones- arrived at 5:45 pm
Joe Staloch
Whitney Sauer
Ted Herman (ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Amy Leach
Therese Salazar

Staff in Attendance:

Cathy Malakowsky, Engagement and Enrichment Director
Ben Bangert, Parks Superintendent
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

Jill Bangert

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Wende Taylor at 5:30pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Joe Staloch made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Kent Rahn seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0 (Tom was absent). Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Joe Staloch made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 2026 (March 2026 meeting was cancelled) meeting and Kent Rahn seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0 (Tom was absent). Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

Ted Herman was introduced as our new City Council Ex-officio.

Old Business Items:

Bridge Avenue Dock – Ben Bangert

The dock is delivered. It will be moved to the City Beach with the help of the street department. From there Brody Page will assist in placing the dock.

Splash Pad Bathrooms- Ben Bangert Presented

The epoxy flooring is now completed in the bathrooms. Kelly's Heating and Plumbing is working on finishing up their projects. The mirrors and hand dryers have been put up. Parks is hoping that the bathrooms will be open by the end of the month. Once the bathrooms are completed there will be a dedication ceremony.

There will also be security cameras installed and staff are deciding on the best line of sight. The internet will come from the theater. There are also going to be automatic locks installed so the bathrooms will be locked overnight.

New Fountains- Ben Bangert Presented

New fountains have been ordered. It will be a couple weeks before they are installed. These fountains include a new electrical box and an app that can control them.

Frank Hall Bike Shelter- Ben Bangert Presented

The contractor will start working on the bike shelter in about 4 weeks. Supplies are all in at Arrow building.

Status of Senior Center relocation-

Cathy gave a tour of the Senior Center. Cathy explained that the council has approved up to \$14,000 for a design for the new Senior Center within the Jim and Dude's building at the former Health Reach building. Two local businesses each will be donating \$5,000 to a total of \$10,000. Staff are going to start working with Wold Architects on Thursday. The city needs to give Skyline Plaza a 180-day notice of not renewing our lease.

New Business Items:

None

Staff Report Discussion:

None

Staff Updates:

None

Board Member Items:

Wende Taylor- The swings at Lakeview Park are very loud, Ben said he would look into greasing them. Wende also asked about shade structures at the All together playground. Ben said he would look into pricing.

Joe Stahloch- was wondering how we can go about getting a mini golf court set up in Albert Lea. Staff shared either the board can make a recommendation to look into pricing for a mini golf course, or people can use the Project Request Form. Joe also asked if the water shed district was still working on the path by the dam. Ben explained that this work is still in progress

Adjournment: Whitney Sauer made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting and Kent Rahn seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dani Bakken
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Stand In Secretary

Approved:

Amy Leach
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chair