

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

*August 16, 2021 5:45 pm
Edgewater Main Pavilion*

Members Present:

Jen Vogt-Erickson
Tony Segura
Steve Ball
Whitney Sauer
Jodi Hartman
Rich Yost
Jason Howland

Members Absent:

Amy Leach

Staff in Attendance:

Ryan Hajek, Asst Director of Public Works
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator
Afton Wacholz, Administrative Assistant Recreation

Others in Attendance:

None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 5:56pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Rich Yost made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Tony Segura seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

There were no official minutes from the July meeting due to no quorum.

Public Items:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

None

Old Business:

Steve Ball discussed the presence of deer in the Brookside Community Gardens and the destruction they are causing to the renter's plants. Steve had Rolling Greens provide him with an estimate to fence the area and that quote came back at just over \$23,000. Steve said he had spoke with other garden renters and they would be willing to pay twice the rental fee going forward to help fund this. Ryan Hajek did have some concern with the room for tractors to turn around in order to maintain the gardens if the fencing was put up how Steve recommended. Ryan also stated that an 8 ft high fence would be recommended to keep deer out but staff would need to check on City ordinance for fencing requirements. The mowing and trimming around the area would also be affected. Staff will continue to look into this situation further.

Recreation: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Aquatic Center last day was August 15th. Season attendance and passes sold were very good.
- Albert Lea Safety Night was held at Morin Park last Tuesday. There were many local agencies in attendance and the public turnout was great.
- Albert Lea Floats event is coming up this Saturday at Frank Hall Park from 10a-12p.
- Recreation and the City Arena will be going live with a new software registration system.

Parks: Report given by Ryan Hajek as follows;

- Ryan submitted his first grant application through the DNR in the amount of \$100,00 for the Emerald Ash Borer. Ryan explained that if nothing is done to these trees that are affected they will all be dead in four years. It would cost the city roughly \$600 per tree to replace. The grant would allow the city to treat the affected trees and prolong their life span. Injections would be made into their roots. Their overall plan would be to treat those that fit the criteria, take down the ones that are too far gone and then plan how they will go forward.
- Work continues to be done on the aerators in Edgewater Bay as they continue to have issues that staff will be addressing. Aerators by Pioneer Park have been put back out.
- Staff is watering trees, flowers and turf frequently right now due to the drought
- Sondergaard play equipment is being replaced. Staff is not sure if Memorial will get done yet this fall or not.
- Ryan, Bob and Dani have met with a public group to discuss an inclusive playground in the community. Discussions will continue in regards to location and fundraising.
- The Edgewater trail will undergo some maintenance to fix the crumbling asphalt.
- Tree trimming and mowing continue to keep seasonal staff busy.

City Arena: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- There are four straight weekends of dry land events – quinceaneras, dog show and Big Island BBQ
- Ice on the Nystrom Rink will start going in the week of August 16th with the first user groups starting the week of August 30th.
- MIAMA Conference is Sept 7-10. Lon and Josh will be attending. A grant was received to cover Josh's attendance.
- Parking lot was chip sealed and repainted by City staff this month.

Senior Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Treasure Island trip is tomorrow. There are 34 people signed up and very excited to have trips going again.
- State Fair and Day Trippers Theater trips are coming up in Sept and Oct.
- First day of masking today went well.

Marion Ross Theater: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- See board member items

Board Member Items:

- Tony Segura-
 - Community member provided Tony with a picture of a zip line that they enjoyed in another community and wondered about any options to add this in AL.
- Rich Yost –
 - Noticed that the picnic tables near Frank Hall park were very dirty and had concerns with the Albert Lea Floats event coming up. Staff will address.

- Rich asked about the status of Snyder Field. Ryan believes that the City Manager is planning to discuss the situation further with Riverland College. Rich discussed that dug out covers are one item that would provide a great upgrade to the current facility. He also stated that AL Youth Baseball is willing to provide a substantial amount of funding to assist with those upgrades.
- Whitney Sauer –
 - Wedgewood Park has a loose section on the climbing apparatus that is requiring some maintenance.
 - Mentioned that Wedgewood Park might be a nice location for the Inclusive Playground.
- Jason Howland –
 - Asked if the City or County had access to face masks for the theater for their upcoming event this weekend with over 100 people. Recreation staff will assist in getting masks and sanitizer stands.
 - Inquired about the update on the boat landings and if the DNR or City has fixed them. Ryan stated that there is still work to be done on them.
 - Jason would like further information on when the Washington/Marion Ross St parking lot repair will be done. The theater just wants to be sure this will not affect their events.

Adjournment: Jen Vogt-Erickson made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Tony Segura seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman