

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2016 5:30 pm

Members Present:

Dan Borland
Mark Calderon
Brian Hensley
Roger Lonning
Reid Olson
Vern Rasmussen, Sr.
Chris Utz

Members Absent:

Jane Grund

Staff in Attendance:

Chad Adams, City Manager
Bob Furland, Recreation
Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager
Joe Grossman, Parks

Others in Attendance:

Carol Lang, Save the Monarchs of Freeborn County

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Chris Utz.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to amend agenda, advancing Lang's presentation as the first action item.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Hensley to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting. It was seconded by Calderon and approved.

Public Items/Presentations:

None

New Discussion/Action Items:

- a. **Monarch Gardens:** Carol Lang of Save the Monarchs of Freeborn County submitted a proposal for consideration that would establish a pollinator park near the Edgewater Pavilion. Lang discussed that a decrease in milkweed has led to a decline in the pollinator population. The group she belongs to is applying for a grant with Pheasants Forever. Should the group be awarded the grant, cost to the City of Albert Lea would be minimal - an in-kind donation of labor of mowing the area. The park would be maintained by volunteers. A staff member from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would provide technical assistance. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Rasmussen, Sr. and seconded by Borland. The vote was unanimous. 7 park board members approving.

- b. **Community Dock by City Beach:** Grossman and Adams presented a design to install a community dock at the city beach. The installation of a community dock could result in a decrease in the number of slips around Fountain Lake. The Board debated whether to reduce the number of docks around the lake, placing such a dock near Bridge Street and how to determine who would be awarded space in the dock. The Board asked Adams and Grossman to continue to research the topic with these items in mind.
- c. **Community Recreation Services:** Furland led a discussion about collaboration between Albert Lea Parks and Recreation and Community Education. He detailed the advantages to a partnership.
Options included: No change, Co-locate operate as independent organizations, Co Locate and share elements of programming, Co-locate and merge operations. The Board had questions about staffing and operations should the partnership move forward.
Board was in favor of continuing discussions.
- d. **Dog Park Location:** Gabrielatos presented the design for the proposed dog park location at Brookside. Gabrielatos talked about past questions from the board including information from the DNR, talked about squaring off fence lines, informed board about work being done on signs. Rasmussen asked about the Bull Pen area and tables for the dog park. Grossman talked about being ready to order fence. A motion to approve the location and design was made by Hensley and seconded by Borland. The motion was approved unanimously.
- e. **Events at Edgewater Bay Pavilion:** Adams explained that there is a large demand for use of the Pavilion and asked that the board consider amending the hours that the facility can be used, specifically to allow a closing time at midnight rather than 10:30 p.m. He understands there will be concerns about consumption of alcohol and noise made by event attendees. The Park Board will consider this, and as they also discussed the fees for usage. Hensley asked if the Parks department could put in a drive to the double doors for deliveries.

Update Items:

- a. **Splash Pad Project:** Adams informed the Board that the formal fundraising campaign for the Splash Pad will soon be underway. He added that the American Legion facility located nearby would not be amenable to making the restrooms inside the building available for use by Splash Pad users. He also detailed that there are tanks that the City currently owns that could be repurposed for use in the operations of the Splash Pad.

Board Member Items: Rasmussen inquired about the status of the scoreboards and whether more benches could be installed near Fountain Lake.

Adjournment: A motion was made at 6:40 pm by Lonning to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Borland and motion carried.

Next regular scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Gabrielatos, Assistant City Manager