

PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2022 5:45 pm  
Edgewater Bay Pavilion

**Members Present:**

Steve Ball  
Rich Yost  
Jen Vogt-Erickson  
Tony Segura  
Jodi Hartman  
Amy Leach  
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

**Members Absent:**

Whitney Sauer

**Staff in Attendance:**

Cathy Malakowsky, Director of Community Engagement and Enrichment  
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager  
Ryan Hajek, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator  
Josh Heilman, Arena/Pool Technician  
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 5:48pm.

**Adopt Agenda:**

Jodi Hartman made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Amy Leach seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Jen Vogt-Erickson made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting and Rich Yost seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed.

**Public Items:**

**Action/Discussion Items:**

**Old Business:**

Cathy Malakowsky provided an update on the Inclusive Playground project. On March 5<sup>th</sup> the Albert Lea City Council voted to support the application for a DNR grant for \$300,000. Cathy shared the whole project is projected to cost around \$1.2 million. The council also supported to commit \$350,000 of City funds toward the project. The final application is due March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The planning committee is busy fundraising and doing quite well. They raised around \$4,000 at the Rock Your Socks Run/Walk event to support autism.

**Recreation:** Report given by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken as follows;

- Bob introduced Josh Heilman, Recreation's current Arena/Pool technician. Josh has worked at the arena since 2016 and looks forward to stepping into a bigger role due to staffing changes.
- Dani reported that summer program planning is full swing and the goal is to see pre-COVID participation numbers again.
- Currently we have 22 lifeguards and 3 attendants returning. 13 new applications have been received and we expect more in the next few weeks. YMCA classes are currently being held for lifeguard certification.
- On March 27 Recreation partnered with the YMCA and the Children's Center for a St. Patty's Day event with 64 kids participating in ice skating and swimming.
- The library, CVB and Recreation are partnering to put on Red Shed events this summer by the Splash Pad to include various entertainment such as musicians, bounce houses, crafts, etc.
- The summer guide brochure highlighting our summer programming will be mail out in the next month.
- Bob has been busy with Holly at the CVB planning the Thursdays on Fountain entertainment as well as Art in The Park for later June and Cinco De Mayo early May.
- Recreation will provide kids events at Wind Down Wednesdays.
- Planning is taking place for Eddie Cochran weekend as well AL Floats in collaboration with a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edgewater Park celebration. Rock N Roll the Lakes would also be held with this event.

**Parks:** Report given by Ryan Hajek as follows;

- Received a proposal from Jones, Haugh and Smith for tiling at Snyder Complex. The plan is to work with engineers to develop same plans as well as future plans so any work now will work well with future improvements.
- Staff continue to work on Ash tree removal and tree trimming, playground inspections flower bed cleaning, equipment maintenance and switching over from winter to summer.
- Fountain Lake Park railing has been fixed after some damage occurred.
- There was discussion about bathrooms at the North Lot. There are not current plans but certain user groups continue to explore that possibility. Amy Leach asked about bathrooms at the Brookside Landing to increase the availability for those utilizing the trail as well as the boat landing. Ryan discussed that there is a lack of infrastructure in that area to connect to sewer. There was further discussion on signage along the trail to direct where bathroom stops are along the way.
- Received just under 20 application for their open park maintenance position and they will go forward with interviewing 8 of those applicants.

**City Arena:** Report given by Josh Heilman as follows;

- The busy hockey season has come to an end, while figure skating finished their season with their show this weekend. Staff replaced the hockey glass with shorter glass to accommodate the viewing of the skating show while still providing safety to those walking on the bleachers.
- Youth Hockey Association will begin 4 on 4 spring league through mid-April two nights a week.
- Ice will come out on Nystrom right after the skating show and Colstrup will come out early July.
- Staff is working on Waldorf locker room projects.
- Bids for ditch around the arena to help with the water issues in Colstrup
- Looking to update the signage for the Arena off of Hwy and also on site
- Colstrup kubes have had maintenance work on them as they have been acting up
- Roof repair has increased in price and has been quoted around \$800, 000 which is up from the original quote a year ago of \$475,000. The plan is to replace this summer with bids due on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Aquatic Center:** Report given by Josh Heilman as follows;

- Continued work on maintenance and bids for beams, sound system and painting the building.

**Senior Center:** Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Senior Center is up to 160 members
- Thursday next week is a trip to Mystic Lake Casino.

**Marion Ross Theater:** Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- CIPs for this year include replacement of cabinets and sink as well as drop ceiling.
- Death Trap is now in its second week. Jason shared that the crowds are a bit smaller since it's a drama but Willie Wonka will draw sell out crowds this summer. Those auditions will be the end of April and the show in June instead of July this year.
- Panic bars are now complete.

**Board Member Items:**

- Steve Ball –
  - Winter rinks went over really well and the Lakeview Loop was a great option
  - Steve inquired about 1<sup>st</sup> aid courses for arena staff due to the incident that happened with the head boys hockey coach. Arena staff do receive training in basic first aid and CPR. With this incident happening with the High School program, the HS coaches and staff do also have emergency protocols they have set in place.
- Jason Howland –
  - Jason asked if Recreation staff could check into getting an AED at the Marion Ross Theater.
  - Jason informed the board about our local Albert Lea Anglers team that he helps coach. They have their very first scrimmage against Farmington on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jason asked about using tables, etc at the boathouse and Bob informed him that he should check with Community Education who runs the boathouse.

**Adjournment:** Rich Yost made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 6-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Afton Wacholz  
Acting Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

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Steve Ball  
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman