

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2022 5:45 pm
Edgewater Bay Pavilion

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Jodi Hartman
Rich Yost
Amy Leach
Jen Vogt-Erickson
Tony Segura (arrived at 6:22pm)

Members Absent:

Whitney Sauer
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 5:45pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Rich Yost made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Jodi Hartman seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0 (Jen Vogt-Erickson and Tony Segura were not present for the vote). Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Rich Yost made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2022 meeting and Jen Vogt-Erickson seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0 (Tony Segura was not present for the vote). Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

Action/Discussion Items:

Cathy shared with the board possible plans to have a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Retreat in the next couple of months. This retreat would take the place of a regularly scheduled board meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month. It would more than likely last 2 to 2.5 hours to allow for discussion on CIPs

and wish lists for the Parks and Recreation department, as well as discuss visions for the board and departments going forward. Rich asked if this should be done before or after new council seats are filled. Cathy and board didn't think it would matter and the majority felt it could and should take place prior to January 2023. Staff will work on planning the retreat and possibly asking an outside organization to lead the retreat.

Further discussion was had on the Albert Lea Art Walk proposal for additional art to be showcased at the Sibley Play Park Building and the Pioneer Park Aeration Building. The Art Walk committee provided a written statement requesting that the board consider a different approach when approving art proposals. The committee feels that art is a way to showcase each individual artist and that it is not necessarily something the board should evaluate on color, detail, etc as long as it follows the Art Walk rules of appropriateness. Jodi Hartman made the motion to rescind the previous motion made at the July meeting to approve the locations but request other options for the art itself. Amy Leach seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of the said motion 4-0, Jen Vogt-Erickson abstained. Jodi Hartman made the motion to accept the current art walk proposals that were presented to the board at the July meeting and request City Council approval. Amy Leach seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0, Jen Vogt-Erickson abstained.

Old Business:

Cathy Malakowsky gave the board an update on the all-inclusive playground. The City's application for the DNR grant was denied, citing concerns of accessible parking and on-site permanent bathrooms. City staff met to discuss the next steps which included bathroom estimates of approximately \$18,000 and possible fencing around the park. City staff shared with the board that the fundraising committee is needing help to make calls to local businesses seeking sponsorship to stay on track with their fundraising goals. To this point approximately \$60,000 has been allocated in local grants, \$94,500 additional in applications that are out but unknown yet and \$30,000 from local businesses.

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

- Safety Night was a success; several new businesses took part including Cargill and T&W Towing. The two hour time frame was ideal and was attended by a very diverse population of our community.
- 100th Anniversary of Edgewater Park had a much lower turn out than expected however the weather was cooler and it was leading up to the first week of school. The movie in the park was cancelled due to the weather/wind. Rock and Roll The Lakes had 160 bikers participate and the Community Education kayaks were busy.
- Recreation is receiving additional concerns on the deer at Brookside Gardens as well as Margaretha. Continued discussion as to possible solutions for our garden renters.
- Fall event planning is in the works.

Parks: Report given by Ryan Hayek as follows;

- Facility maintenance and repairs
- Frisbee golf course adjustments due to the airport fence relocation
- Tree removals; purchasing approximately \$40,000 of new trees, roughly 280 trees
- Memorial Park playground installation; saved roughly \$9,000 having our City staff do the install instead of the company
- Watering flowers and trimming; many of the seasonal staff are leaving for college

- Snyder irrigation project underway; relocation of north volleyball courts due to a new pond in the north-west corner of the facility

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- The City Arena hosted the annual dog show which had over 500 dog showings per day.
- The roofing project started today.
- Rubber flooring project was completed last week.
- Staff are working on putting on fresh paint throughout the building.
- Dasher boards are back in; compressors started up today with ice painting starting on Monday. Waldorf begins skating on August 27th.

Aquatic Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Pool closed on August 14th for the season; very low attendance the last week and just under 10,000 total visits were estimated for the season
- The boiler were not completed during the season. This should be completed this fall yet and be ready for the 2023 season.

Senior Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- No report given

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

- Season tickets for the upcoming ACT performances are on sale.

Board Member Items:

- Tony Segura –
 - Auditions for the comedy Big 5-0 will be August 22nd and 23rd with the show set for the end of September/early October
 - Annual meeting will be August 17th at 7pm
 - ACT has received a grant in the amount of one year's operating budget; there are plans to upgrade lights and sound
- Jen Vogt-Erickson –
 - Jen spoke with J.D. Carlson regarding the safety concerns she sees on Bridge Ave, specifically the unlawful passing in the turn lanes; Jen feels this is related to Recreation because our community is using the crosswalks to walk to parks and would like to see this addressed because of the danger
- Rich Yost –
 - Rich asked Parks staff if there has been any discussion on putting a taller, larger safety net behind the back stop and over the dugouts at Hayek Field to prevent foul balls from going onto Clark St and hitting houses; there has been significant safety issues when younger children go to find foul balls and cross the street. Ryan is not aware of any discussion on a net but did add that a new sound system is in the budget for 2023 for Hayek field.
- Steve Ball –
 - Steve spoke with Sarah Stultz about the Splash Pad and the committee's push to utilize the funds that are currently being held with the Chamber. They have roughly \$12,000 still in their account and are losing each month if they don't come up with a plan to use it for improvements, etc. The committee has met with the Parks department to discuss options and a few ideas were structures to create more shade. Parks has concern with shading

too much of the area as many use it to enjoy the warmth of the sun. The City suggested trying a cover over the pergola first to provide additional shade.

Adjournment: Rich Yost made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Jen Vogt-Erickson seconded the motion. 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