

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2022 5:45 pm
City Arena

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Jodi Hartman
Amy Leach
Whitney Sauer
Jen Vogt-Erickson (arrived at 5:55pm)
Tony Segura (arrived at 6:30pm)
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

Rich Yost

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Cathy Malakowsky, Community Engagement and Enrichment Director
Joe Grossman, Parks Superintendent
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Ron Eriksmoen, Albert Lea Rugby

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 5:49pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Jodi Hartman made the motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and Whitney Sauer 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:

Amy leach made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2022 meeting and Whitney Sauer 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.

Public Items:

Ron Eriksmoen from the Albert Lea Rugby Club presented to the board on behalf of his program and Albert Lea Youth Football and the Albert Lea Grizzlies (adult football club). Currently Frank Hall Park field, known as Grizzly Field, is used only by that program for practices and games. All three organizations have prepared a proposal to turn Grizzly Field into a field that can be used for youth

football, adult football, youth rugby and adult rugby going forward. There will be a need to rotate and shift the lay out of the existing field in order to fit the needs of the dimensions required for rugby. This adjustment would mean relocating the football goal posts.

This location is ideal for all of these programs because the grass is well maintained, the land is flat and is an ideal space to showcase in our community. The programs have used school district fields in the past but have experienced more issues with availability and suitable grounds.

Currently the rugby program has roughly 35-50 athletes, youth football has about 50-80 and adult football is roughly 30-40. Ron and Steve Piper, with youth and adult football, are volunteers for their programs. Their main goal for their programs is to provide opportunities. Ron specifically discussed the role rugby plays for young women and their self-confidence.

By improving the amenities at this location, it would allow all programs the ability to hold practices, games, and tournaments. In return this will help bring visitors to our community, who will stay in our hotels and shop locally.

Ron discussed the research he has done to use either self-assembled or pre-fab containers as the base for locker rooms, storage area, press box and concessions. There would also be a need for additional bleachers as well as a scoreboard (provided hand out attached).

Jason Howland discussed the financial obligations for this project and Ron stated that he would be seeking funds from the City in collaboration with the fundraising that all the organizations involved would do. Jason suggested exploring grant options for a project such as this as well.

Action/Discussion Items:

The October meeting will be replaced with a board retreat for members and staff. Cathy has secured a consultant from Riverland Community College to lead. The retreat will focus on the roles of the board and staff as well as organizing the agendas, prioritizing City projects, etc. Supper will be provided. Cathy discussed the updates for the Union Pacific trail planning. This trail will run from Hartland, through town, to Hayward. This will be a great way to connect to parks, schools, etc. The Trail Planning Committee will be working with MNDOT for continued planning.

Old Business:

Additional gardeners have contacted the Recreation department to express their frustrations with the deer population and the affects it has on their gardens. Staff continue to look at options that have been brought forward from the renters, such as a perimeter fence and a community deer hunt. A survey will be sent to all renters during the off-season to gather feedback.

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

- Mexican Independence Day celebration was a great event. Roughly 400-500 gathered throughout the evening to enjoy food, games and ethnic activities.
- Dani participated in the Walk To End Alzheimer's.
- Dani will be representing the Recreation department at upcoming health fairs.
- Recreation is teaming up with Community Education to hold a NO School Day Activity on Thursday and Friday of MEA. Participants will utilize the Rock Gym as well as ice skate.
- Mites In House Hockey registration is open and will begin early November. Equipment rentals are now being collected through the Recreation office with the program registration.
- Fall Fun Guide should be out around the first of October.
- World Inclusion Day is October 10th. The local Inclusive Playground committee is holding a fundraiser that day at the Edgewater Bay Pavilion from 4:30-6:30p.

Parks: Report given by Joe Grossman as follows;

- Snyder tiling project is underway. The tiling is complete and City staff has begun to seed and restore the fields/in-fields. More drainage work will be completed in October.
- The food truck location by Subway on Main St will be repaved and electrical will be added.
- Roughly 290 trees have arrived and will be planted yet this fall. Just over 100 of those trees are replacements for ash trees that were removed.
- Art Walk display pads have been poured and limestone pedestals will be placed. This spring art will begin to be displayed at those locations.
- Department is experiencing staff shortages, due to some medical situations.
- The basketball court at Sondergaard is scheduled to be redone however it may not be completed by this fall.

City Arena: Report given by Bob Furland as follows;

- Nystrom ice is in and Waldorf, youth hockey and figure skating have begun usage.
- Staff is working on winter ice scheduling for all user groups
- A transformer went out this past Saturday at the arena which cause power outages.
- The building has fresh new paint on the walls and ceiling tiles are being replaced. The roof project is almost complete.

Aquatic Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Pool is closed for the season however work is being done on a new sound system as well as gel coating the slide. The boiler is still needing repair during the off-season.

Senior Center: Report given by Dani Bakken as follows;

- Casino trips and a Riverboat Cruise trip are coming up next month.
- Board President Ed Hanson passed away suddenly.

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

- Upcoming play starts on Sept 29.
- Staff hopes to replace the downstairs furnace yet this year.
- Cabinet quotes are in and staff will soon be starting on that project.

Board Member Items:

- Jodi Hartman –
 - She shared that her family utilized the new frisbee golf holes at Bancroft that were relocated due to the airport fencing expansion. She stated they were very nice.
- Jen Vogt-Erickson –
 - There will be a Friends of the Library book sale October 13-15.
- Jason Howland –
 - Jason asked Joe if the Brookside landing had been fixed. Jason stated there is still a hole where the concrete planks may have shifted or are missing and are causing issues for users.
 - Jason shared that the City Council passed the preliminary levy of a 6.5% increase. He stated this is just preliminary and that the majority of this the increase is due to the Emerald Ash Bore plan and personnel benefits.

Adjournment: Jen Vogt-Erickson made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Amy Leach 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