

November Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Halloween Skate was held on October 29- there were about 140 people who attended
- Oktoberween- Oktoberfest was a partnership the CVB, Recreation and 112 On Broadway. 2,970 paid admissions, 7,700 people visited the Fairgrounds October 20-31. Oktoberween was covered by news casts from KIMT, KTTC and KAAL.
- Dani represented the Recreation Department at the YMCA trunk or treat- there was a good turnout even though the event was moved indoors
- Starting to hire for warming house staff for the 2023-2024 season
- Warming house hours will be:
 - Monday-Friday 5:00pm-8:00pm- Hayek, Lakeview and Hawthorne Park
 - Saturday and Sunday- 1:00pm-8:00pm- Hayek, Academy and Lakeview Park
- Starting to work on summer programming
- Turkey Trot on ice will be on November 19 4:30-6p
- Santa mailbox will be back starting Friday November 24 and run until December 14

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hajek/Mike Westney;

- Snyder backstops are all done & they plan on starting the cement dugout pads next week.
- Staff started putting up Christmas lights & banners.
- Working on fall seeding at Sondergaard, Valley, Edgewater & other small areas.
- Outdoor hockey rinks are up. Currently working on some repairs prior to the season.
- Picking up leaves and doing some final mowing.
- Edgewater Park martin houses were moved to the west out of the way of the new playground.
- New Kubota mower to be delivered 11/20/2023.
- Aeration signs to put up.
- Valley playground is done except for one railing clamp. We are waiting on delivery.
- Trucks have been ordered.
- They are working on the glass enclosure walls at Edgewater Bay to close off entry to the bathrooms.

City Arena: Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- **Facility update –**
 - Continue to work with Apex to plan for Arena updates
 - Bleachers have been installed in both arenas.
 - New Scoreboard to be installed in late December in the Colstrup Arena

Events -

- Hockey tournaments started
 - November 10 – 12 B- Bantams 8 teams (Albert Lea, Brookings, Austin, Cottage Grove, Prior Lake, Fairmont, Dodge County and New Ulm)
 - December 8 – 10 A- Bantams 8 teams (Albert Lea, Rogers, Andover, Sioux City, Sauk Rapids, Dodge County, Sleepy Eye / New Ulm)

- December 15 – 17th A- Peewee / B-Peewee 14 teams (“A” Albert Lea, Sioux Falls, Fremont NE, Sioux City, New Ulm Sleepy Eye, Windom.) (“B” Peewee Albert Lea, Sioux City, Des Moines, New Ulm Sleepy Eye, Fairmont, East Metro, Mankato, Omaha.)

Programs –

- Mites In-House Hockey and Learn To Skate are going well.

Aquatic Center: Report provided by Bob Furland/Dani Bakken;

- None

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Closed November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving
- **Trips -**
 - Jackpot Junction overnight Nov 28 and 29.
- **Programs –**
 - Forever Fit Wednesdays at 9:00am
 - Memory Café second Thursday each month.
 - Coffee with a Cop first Wednesday each month

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **ACT Plays -**A Christmas Carol - Dec 7-16

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

Park rules: The City Attorney and City Manager made several edits to the park rules recommended by the Board, but the gist is still there. The following rules will go to the Albert Lea City Council for a vote on Nov. 27:

Sec. 32.001. Rules, Regulations governing parks and playgrounds generally.

- Traffic.* It is unlawful for any person to drive a motorized vehicle, including but not limited to car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, UTV and dirt bikes, in any park, playground, public school ground, or other public thoroughfare therein not designated as a public road or parking area. This subsection shall not apply to construction or maintenance equipment operated by or under a contract with the city and within the scope of such operation or contract or recreation vehicles where permitted. This section shall not apply to motorized wheel chairs or similar devices used by physically disabled individuals. This section shall not regulate the use of multi-purpose trails.
- Additional rules and regulations.* The city manager and supervisory staff may adopt additional restrictions, rules and regulations for the use of parks, playgrounds, recreational areas or athletic fields as needed, the city council adopts the following regulations enforceable per section 32.001(d) of this ordinance:
 - 1) No alcohol products may be produced, displayed, sold, consumed at a park, recreational facility or athletic field without approval by the city
 - 2) No cannabis products may be produced, displayed, sold, consumed, smoked, vaped or otherwise ingested at a park, recreational facility or athletic field without approval by the city

- 3) No tobacco products may be produced, displayed, sold, consumed, chewed, smoked, vaped or otherwise ingested at a park, recreational facility or athletic field.
 - 4) Landscaping materials, including riprap, and all vegetation, including trees, shrubs, flower beds, turf, and other natural growth, cannot be removed, cut or damaged without approval by the city.
 - 5) All pets must be on a leash in control by a person.
 - 6) Any feces must be removed by the person in control of the pet.
 - 7) No person shall leave a fire unattended until fully extinguished.
 - 8) No person shall create, use or maintain a fire outside of a designated public grill, public fireplace or public fire ring.
 - 9) No personal property can be stored in or on any public land, park, recreational facility or athletic field without approval by the city.
- (c) Park hours. No person shall be present within or about the limits of any park or square after 10:30 p.m. and before 5:00 a.m. of any day.
- (d) Penalty. Violation of this section is a petty misdemeanor punishable, upon conviction, in accordance with section 1.013.

These 2 rules are covered by different ordinances and thus will not be repeated in Chapter 32:

- Defacing or destruction of park buildings, structures, or other property is prohibited.
- Litter must be placed in designated containers and dumping of refuse is prohibited.

This rule will be covered under the council granting authority to staff to set rules for specific park areas like the splash pad and beach:

- There are no lifeguards at the City Beach, swim at your own risk.

Inclusive Playground: The volunteer group is down to raising the last \$150,000 for project.

Blue Zones: The Leadership Team is developing a winter walking challenge with prizes for participating in February.

Rec Facility Projects: Staff is working on setting up a meeting for the City Council to vote on the scope of projects and whether to seek financing via a referendum.

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- No update

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- No update

Develop an off-season field house –

- No update

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- See Parks department updates regarding the fencing and dugouts.

Update aging facilities, including the City Arena and Aquatic Center –

- See Cathy's update under Rec Facility Projects.