

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2023 6 pm
Edgewater Bay Pavilion

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Jodi Hartman
Therese Salazar
Amy Leach
Whitney Sauer (arrived 6:02p)
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

Tony Segura

Staff in Attendance:

Cathy Malakowsky, Community Engagement and Enrichment Director
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Mike Veldman, Parks Foreman
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator
Afton Wacholz, Recreation Office Manager

Others in Attendance:

none

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Ball at 6pm.

Adopt Agenda:

Therese Salazar 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 4-0 (Whitney absent). Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Amy Leach made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting and Therese Salazar seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

Pickleball club submitted a project application for new and improved pickleball courts however pertinent information was missing from the application, such as project costs and how the club will fund the project. Afton Wacholz will contact Chris Utz, who submitted the application, and inform of the additional information that is needed.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Rec facilities project update and City Council action**

- The City Council voted 5-2 to go to referendum to ask the voting community for permission to seek funding for the Rec facilities project. Staff appreciates having a clear direction now and will go to work to inform the community of the projects. The special election will take place on April 9th.
- There has been a Vote Yes group established and being led by CVB Director Holly Babcock and includes our major user groups or the City Arena as well as the ACT supporters and possibly Farmer's Market.
- Jason Howland stated that it was the fullest council meeting he has seen in his 8 years and felt all the feedback was very positive. Whitney Sauer added that there has been a lot of positive feedback on social media. Steve Ball shared that there was a lot of conversations and discussion amongst visitors on Hockey Day about the referendum, specifically the arena portion.
- **Park rules follow-up discussion**
 - Park rules will go to the Council again on Feb 12th. Advisory board agrees that the Park rules can reference the Open Bottle Law that already was passed and eliminate the language of not allowing alcohol.
- **Summer ice schedule at the City Arena**
 - Bob shared with the board what summer ice will look like this spring/summer as of right now. The outcome of the referendum may or may not affect this.
 - Colstrup will stay in until the end of April and will then be out until fall
 - Nystrom will come out right after the Figure Skating show the end of March and will then be back on for the month of June.
 - There will be no ice in the month of May.

Staff Reports:

Recreation: Report provided by Dani Bakken;

- News Year's Bash Rock on Ice was held on December 29 - we had about 120 people and a lot of good feedback. Next Rock on Ice is scheduled for February 16 7-9p.
- Warming houses opened on January 18; with the warmer temps we may have a shorter warming house season
 - Hawthorne- 30
 - Hayek-157
 - Academy-12
 - Lakeview-85
- Returning staff emails have been sent out to play park leaders and Aquatic Center staff
- Starting to work with Community Education on the schedule for summer play parks
- Summer job openings will be posted within a couple weeks

Parks: Report provided by Mike Westney;

- Working on outdoor rinks
- Doing equipment maintenance
- Snow removal and cleanup

- Snyder – Fence work is done still working on dugout roofs
- Working on inside building maintenance
- Working on dock repairs
- Tree work – take downs & trimming
- Working on this year's EAB treatment list
- Working on new equipment & playground purchases
- Working on replacing chainsaws that were stolen

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

- **Facility update –**
 - Continue to work with Apex to plan for Arena updates
- **Events -**
 - Hockey tournaments
 - City Arena will host Albert Lea Hockey Day on January 27th. Games start at 7:30 AM. All youth teams, high school teams, and Waldorf will play home games
 - Feb 3rd and 4th, Albert Lea Youth Hockey will host a girls and boys U-8/Mites tournament with 15 teams will be participating
 - February 9th – 11th, Albert Lea Youth Hockey C Peeewe Tournament with eight teams
 - Waldorf Games
 - January 26th and 27th, Waldorf will host Mary University
 - February 9th to 10th Waldorf will host Midland University (last home games for the season)
 - High School Games
 - Regular season home games will be coming to end the second week of February
- **Programs –**
 - Last session of Learn to Skate has started and will run through Feb 11th.

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

- None

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Trips -**
 - None
- **Programs –**
 - January 31st Art with Emelia
 - February 6th Tech Tuesday
 - February 7th Coffee with a Cop

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- January 22nd and 23rd Auditions for The Complete Works of William Shakespeare
- March 30th Kit Mayer and the Pack concert

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- **Apex projects:** The Albert Lea City Council voted at its Jan. 22 meeting to hold a special election April 9, 2024, to authorize borrowing \$9.8 million towards a 12.25 million project for the betterment of the City Arena, Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, Aquatic Center and the addition of bathrooms at the Splash Pad.
- Staff are seeking applications for the open seat on the Board via a news release and social media posts. Thank you to Jodi Hartman for providing a quote and photo!
- City Council has approved an amendment to the dock permit ordinance to: 1) Remove the requirement that permit holders name the City as a third party on their insurance due to changes in the insurance industry; and 2) Change April 16 to the second Friday in April to avoid changing the date in years when April 16 falls on a weekend. Note: Dock permit holders will still need to provide proof of liability insurance.

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- Included in the proposal for long-term maintenance of Rec Facilities

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- No new updates

Develop an off-season field house –

- Status of the non-city group working on this idea?

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- Much progress made with future improvements planned; currently working on dugouts

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

- See Cathy's update under Rec Facility Projects

Board Member Items:

- Amy Leach –
 - Asked about having lights on later for outside rinks. Staff explained that the hours set to respect the neighbors in the area of the parks as the lights do shine into windows, etc. 9pm has been decided on for an appropriate time.
- Steve Ball –
 - Had concerns that cars were driving around barricades at lakeview outdoor rink and that there would be damage due to that. Staff confirmed that has been happening but at this point there isn't much they can do. They will look to possibly install permanent posts and use chain to put across.
- Jason Howland –

- Shared that the City Council approved a change in the dock ordinance and the City will no longer require renters to have the City listed as an additional insured on their liability coverage. Renters will still need to show liability coverage for \$1 million.

Adjournment: Amy Leach made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, and Therese Salazar seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Afton Wacholz
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman