

PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2023 6 pm
Edgewater Bay Pavilion

Members Present:

Steve Ball
Therese Salazar
Kent Rahn
Amy Leach
Wende Taylor
Jason Howland, Ex-Officio

Members Absent:

Whitney Sauer
Tony Segura

Staff in Attendance:

Cathy Malakowsky, Community Engagement and Enrichment Director
Bob Furland, Recreation Manager
Ryan Hajek, Assistant Director of Public Works
Mike Westney, Parks Superintendent
Dani Bakken, Recreation Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

Ron Eriksmoen, Albert Lea Youth Rugby and Albert Lea Youth Football
Morgan Meaney, Albert Lea Youth Rugby
Chris Fjermestad, Greg's Grass and Landscaping and Albert Lea Youth Rugby

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 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Amy Leach made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting and Therese Salazar seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.

Public Items:

None

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Elect Vice Chair Position**
 - Wende Taylor made the motion to elect Amy Leach as the Vice Chair and Kent Rahn seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.
- **Grizzly Field project application review and action**
 - Steve explained that the application was submitted last month there were a few questions so the board requested that representation from the Youth Rugby/Football organizations be present at this months meeting.
 - Cathy shared that there were questions that needed to be asked of Wayne in the Inspection and Zoning department. Wayne presented Ron with an email that the project cannot be signed off on until an architect looks over to make sure it meets codes.
 - Ron explained the project will be broken down into 3 phases.
 - 1. Suitable space to play on
 - Would like to move the field
 - Ron commented that the field stays
 - Goal posts would need to be moved about 4 ft
 - Lou Rich may donate new goal posts
 - New posts will be powder coated white
 - Old goal posts belong to Grizzly Football program
 - 2. Secure safe equipment storage
 - Easier to have one space for equipment to be held especially with different coaches
 - Needing to move the trailer to where the teams are practicing
 - Able to have a safe and secure space for players to change before the game
 - 3 shipping storage containers that will be put together, with 2 at ground level and one raised
 - Ron shared that they will replace the shipping container doors with a rollup garage type door
 - Ron shared that there will be locks on facilities to make sure people can't break into
 - There will be no facilities in building just a building to allow people to change
 - There is no need for water, electric sewer
 - 3. Space for spectators to sit
 - Current bleachers would be put on a crushed rock or concrete slab that does not need to be mowed under. Right now they are moved to mow
 - Will use existing bleachers instead of building new
 - Currently the Rugby program has 20 middle school kids and 35 high schoolers
 - Albert Lea has certified 9 coaches this year
 - Ron is asking to move the project along and do steps 1 and 2
 - Playing field modifications and equipment storage
 - Chris is willing to do the grating work and taking care of berm

- Ron asked that the City make the decision on the rest of the project and what is missing and if doable
 - Ron shared that they would want to do a contract with the City to take facilities with instead of starting over from start
 - Liability- they are not looking to increase the liability for anyone so willing to look at idea if it will raise liability
 - Could keep all containers on ground level and create pad for a sitting area
 - Right now the bleachers at the park are Youth football bleachers
 - Ryan shared that Ron and him have talked and the biggest concern is the corner of the field will get into berm
 - Steve is requesting that the level still has a little grade so that the water is able to drain
 - Ron shared that the corner that goes into to berm would need to be grated and flattened out
 - Ron asked what could be done for the shoreline since the beavers have taken care of it and it needs to be redone
 - Steve looked at plans and seems to be ok from the parks end
 - Cathy asked what the storage containers will look like
 - Ron shared they would be reconditioned and be painted a matte grey color so they can age well
 - There will be logos on that can be sponsorship that can be replaced as it ages
 - The idea would be to make it look like it was built for the use of being on the field
- At this time the group does have a good amount of money ear marked for the project
- Motion: The board recommends moving forward with the playing field modifications as presented by Albert lea Youth Football, Albert Lea Grizzly program and Albert Lea Rugby and as funded by the above organizations. Motion made by Amy Leach and seconded by Therese Salazar. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.
- Motion: The board recommends the council approve placement of 2 shipping containers for equipment storage for 3 organizations as long as they meet building code and local ordinance. Motion made by Wende Taylor and seconded by Therese Salazar. The board voted in favor of said motion 5-0. Motion declared passed.
- **Rec facilities referendum results and next steps**
 - Referendum passed! 3 to 1 1,849 yes 600 no
 - Cathy shared statistics on the election
 - Next step is the contract going to City Council on Monday
 - 1st contract is for the refrigeration for the Nystrom and Colstrup rinks
 - 2nd contract is for the rest of the project
 - Parks is doing the downtown bathroom that is not under the direction of APEX
 - Steve asked when work will start
 - Bob shared that this year will be for planning and then next spring the work will start

- 1st phase- design then council will look at bids and decide what they will do and then will amend the contract for the implication
- Splash Pad Bathrooms
 - Ryan is working on what they want for designs and plans with dollar amount
- Projects will come through Park and Rec board before going to council

Staff Reports:

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Arbor Day celebration: Ben Bangert from the Parks Department has been instrumental in working with the local schools to start this program. Dani and Ben worked together to create a scavenger hunt in our parks.
- We are hiring Summer Staff for the pool and Recreation.
- The Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg hunt was held at the City Arena on March 30, and nearly 300 people participated.
- The Library and Recreation Department will host an open house on May 2 from 4-7 pm at the City Council Chambers. Attendees will be able to register for Recreation and Library Summer Programs. There will be complimentary bus rides on SMART transit, and a school bus will pick up people from Clarks Grove and drop them off at the Library.
- April 19 Recreation will be attending Glenville's Unplugged event for high school students. We will have a table to pass out information and an activity for students.
- Afton has been busy renting Docks and Gardens. Docks will open to the public for rent at 6:00 am on April, 12,2024.

Parks: Report provided by Mike Westney;

- Putting in all public docks.
- Working on picnic table repairs.
- Edgewater maintenance.
- Will be changing out banners uptown.
- We opened up Edgewater and Bancroft for the summer.
- Still doing some equipment maintenance.
- Working on getting Snyder ready for the summer.
- Working on the new dock for the Pelican Breeze.
- Started hiring summer help.
- Working on getting the fountains ready to put in at New Denmark park.
- Tree trimming and take downs.
- Will start turning on water and opening parks and buildings.

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

- **Facility update –**
 - Josh and Emma have started working on summer maintenance projects.
 - Afton has been busy working with the High School and Hockey on schedules for games and tournaments.

- The referendum passed!!!
- **Events -**
 - Youth Hockey
 - ALHA spring youth hockey league runs through April 30, two nights per week
 - Waldorf
 - Done for the season
 - High School
 - Done for the season
 - Figure Skating
 - Spring ice began April 1st and will run each Monday 6-8pm through April
- **Events –**
 - Ducks Unlimited Banquet will be held at the arena on Saturday, April 13, 2024.
 - ALHS After Grad Party will be held at the arena on Friday, May 17.

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

- Josh has started preparing to get started working at the City pool.
- Emma has taken the Certified Pool Operators class and is now certified.

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Trips -**
 - April 26 Day Trippers dinner theatre "Til Beth do us part"
- **Programs –**
 - April 16 - Emergency Response Basics class
 - April 17 – May 22 "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" class

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Upcoming events -**
 - April 19 – 7:30 pm (\$20 Adult) One Night Only – A Tribute to Elton John
 - April 20 – 7:30 pm (\$20 Adult) ABBA Tribute Show
 - April 28 – 2:00 pm (\$20 Adult/ \$15 Student) Monroe Crossing – Bluegrass Band
 - May 6 – 7:30 pm (\$25 Adult) Running in the Shadows – A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- Referendum results and next step discussion in agenda discussion

**** 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 –

- Naming recommendation has been recommended from the board

Develop an off-season field house –

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

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- See update under Parks

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

- Referendum update on the agenda

Board Member Items:

- Amy Leach –
 - Shared that there is a large hole on the north side of Edgewater boat landing. The Parks department will look at this
- Steve Ball –
 - A thank you to Cathy and Bob and the rest of the City staff on all the work for the referendum
- Jason Howland –
 - Shared the Brookside boat landing is really bad. There is a big hole right in the middle and planks are missing.
 - ACT has auditions for Fiddler on the Roof tomorrow and Wednesday at 6:00p.

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,

Dani Bakken
Temporary Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Ball
Park & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman