

May Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- The Summer Fun Guide has been mailed out.
- Play Parks open June 3.
- New boats have been ordered for the Frank Hall rental station.
- Thursdays on Fountain starts May 30th with Albert Lea Community Band.
- Thursdays on Fountain and the kick-off of Eddie Cochran weekend on June 6th. Bayside Ski Club will be performing a special show at Fountain Lake Park on this evening as well.
- June 7th Movie in the Park at Edgewater Bandshell "Encanto"
- June 15th Pride Festival at Central Park
- June 19th Juneteenth Celebration at The Broadway Albert Lea

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hajek and Mike Westney;

- New Pelican breeze dock is in, still has a little work to do adjusting the ramps.
- Downtown hanging baskets are up and the pots are planted.
- Gardens are tilled and staked.
- New Denmark fountains are in and running.
- We put out two new soccer nets at Sondergaard park.
- Will be putting a new memorial bench on the Blazing Star Trail.
- Will be starting the installation of the new playground at Bellview.
- Still have work to do at Snyder fields.
- Doing a lot of mowing, tree trimming and take downs.
- Summer volleyball, softball, & baseball will be starting.
- We have had a lot of graffiti and vandalism this year already that staff are working on cleaning up.
- EAB private plan
 - Free Ash wood disposal for Albert Lea residents at the Transfer Station
 - Advertised \$8 per diameter at breast height for EAB treatments
 - Promote other City certified arborists for inspections and treatments
- Pelican Breeze Dock Alterations
 - The dock needs taller float extensions on the ramps to tip the dock straight. The manufacturer is fabricating what we need and might not install until next year.
- Grizzly Field Changes
 - Working with team to make changes but postponing till fall so that the seeding takes shape better
- Bridge Ave. Public Dock
 - Starting June 17th tentatively
 - They will not be working the 3rd of July for the parade
 - Hoping to be done by the end of July

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

- **Facility update –**
 - Staff continue to work with Apex on the arena projects.
 - Council passed the first design contract with Apex.
- **Events -**
 - Youth Hockey
 - none
 - Waldorf
 - none
 - High School
 - Summer hockey will begin June 3rd through the month.
 - Figure Skating
 - none
- **Events –**
 - Albert Lea High School After Grad party will be held on Friday May 17th.

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

- Josh is planning to begin filling the pool the week of May 20th.
- Staff is working on cleaning and preparing the building for the pool opening on June 3rd.
- Registrations for swim lessons and water aerobics opened on May 2nd. Pool passes are also available to purchase for the season.

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Trips -**
 - May 14 Mystic Lake Casino
 - June 12 Arboretum
 - June 18 Winona Museum
- **Programs/Events –**
 - May 20 Spring BBQ event

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Upcoming events -
 - May 18 The Beatles tribute
 - June 20-23 and 26-30 Fiddler On The Roof performances

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- The **Council approved the first design contract with Apex** for the refrigeration system, frost removal and new Colstrup floor at the Arena.
- As part of approving changes to the fee schedule, the **Council also approved** the:
 - **Scholarship program for Rec programs**, in which families receiving any kind of assistance receive a 70% discount on the program fees. At this time, the scholarship applies only to swim lessons, Mites Hockey and Learn to Skate.
 - **1 flat reservation fee for food trucks.**

- Changes to Mobile Vendor Reservations – The City is exploring working with a local business on a start-up program that will make reservations and access possible through a 3rd party pay and locking system. This will be similar to bike or kayak rentals. The price needs to be changed from “electric only” to “reservation” regardless of electric use in order for the agreement to work. This will be explored for approximately 24 months.
- During the May 13 city council public forum, resident Joel Erickson and Councilor Larry Baker asked for signs on local trails advising “Slow biking, 10 mph limit” due to recent brushes with e-bikes speeding on the trail.
- The council approved the second design contact with Apex for the remainder of the Rec Facility projects (except for a few at the theater and the downtown restrooms).
- The council voted yes for changing the Grizzlies field and allowing 2 shipping containers for long-term storage. They also thanked Ron Eriksmoen for providing a great program for students and attracting more visitors to Albert Lea.

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- Parks staff are currently working on plans for the design of this project.

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- Trails Association recently learned that naming the new portion of the trail “Blazing Star” could risk receiving funding because of confusion over whether it’s a state trail funded by the DNR or a regional trail funded by other sources. So, Cathy suggest the Parks and Rec Board’s runner-up, “Southern Star”. Ultimately the County Board will decide the name.

Develop an off-season field house –

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

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- Spring/Summer seasons for the high school, junior high and youth organizations are underway. There are still projects needing to be completed however things are in full use.

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

- Both design contracts with APEX have been approved by the City Council.