

## **October Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff**

**Recreation:** Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Oktoberween – Working at the Fairgrounds to set up for Oktoberween.
  - October 18 – 20 & October 25 – 27
  - Community event partnership between the CVB, Recreation, and the 112
  - See the attached flyer
- Seasonal pavilions are now closed for the season (October 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Gardens closed for the season on October 15<sup>th</sup> and deadline for dock rental equipment to be removed from the lake was October 15<sup>th</sup>. Many renters are waiting on their hired company to remove theirs still.
- Safety Day was held on September 17 at Morin Park. 500 people were in attendance, and 23 different community services participated.
- City Arena Learn to Skate program started with 37 participants in the first session.
- Recreation participated in the back-to-school festival on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Albert Lea High School.
- Recreation attended the Carpenter Company Health Fair and the Hawthorne Resource Fair on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Halloween Skate will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

**Parks:** Report provided by Ryan Hajek and Mike Westney;

- Ryan is working with an architect to design the north lot Splashpad bathroom
  - Pioneer Park size/style bathroom appears to be way over budget
- Ryan is working with a consultant for the Snyder field bathroom, concessions, and playground area
- Tree order came in. Staff will begin planting tomorrow.
- Working on repairs to the lookout at Bancroft Bay Park
- Regular maintenance at Edgewater park
- Rick is spraying and rough mowing
- Christmas preparations/decorations will go up down town after tree planting is complete
- Winterizing park buildings and bathrooms
- Rink set-ups to begin in the next month
- Public dock on Bridge is done for the fall. Waiting on boat tie downs. Dock still yet to be ordered.
- Tilling and mowing off gardens

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

- Facility updates –
  - Five showers are being replaced in the team locker rooms with work beginning Oct 17.
  - Continued work with Apex on projects and designs.
  - Several new staff working for the arena this winter. Staff orientation will be held early November.

- Staff are working on Zamboni and arena maintenance as the start of the busy season is upon us.
- **Events -**
  - Youth Hockey
    - Albert Lea Youth Hockey Association teams have been selected and practices have started for the season.
    - Josh is participating in the associations required parent/player meetings to discuss City Arena expectations for the season.
    - Try Hockey for Free event on November 2
    - First youth tournament November 8-10
  - Waldorf
    - D1 home series:
      - McKendree Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Oct 19 at 2pm
      - University of Jamestown Nov 1 7pm and Nov 2 2pm
    - D2 home series vs Northern Michigan Oct 25 8pm and Oct 26 2pm
  - High School
    - Captains practices currently being held. Girls season will officially begin Oct 28 and boys on Nov 11.
  - Figure Skating
    - No new updates.
- **Other events –**
  - None

**Aquatic Center:** Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- Paintball Inc will be starting this week with prepping and painting both pools
- Working with Apex on the project design for surveying the facility
- Winterizing pool and the building

**Senior Center:** Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Trips -**
  - Side Kick Theatre December 10<sup>th</sup> “Bells will be Ringing”
- **Programs/Events –**
  - Bob attended the board meeting on October 9th
  - Fall brunch will be held at the center on October 25th

**Marion Ross Theater:** Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Facility Updates –
  - The floors in the basement have been sealed and coated. Recreation staff will work on floor trim and touch-up paint over the next two weeks to finish the project.
  - Jim and Dudes have installed the new water heater, furnace, and air conditioner units.
- Upcoming events -
  - White Christmas will run December 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14
  - October 8<sup>th</sup> music group Super Tramp Tribute

**Other:** Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- **Rec Facilities Update:**

At its meeting Oct. 14, the Albert Lea City Council approved an amended contract with Apex Facility Solutions of Coon Rapids, Minn., for several projects at the City Arena, Aquatic Center and Marion Ross Performing Arts Center.

The projects include:

- LED lighting and other energy-efficiencies at all 3 facilities
- Structural reinforcements and drainage for the arena
- New water-heating and electrical systems for the pool
- New front doors and windows for the theater
- Water conservation measures

The projects approved total \$1.91 million in net cost after lighting rebates of \$17,397. The Albert Lea Parks and Recreation Board voted Sept. 16 to recommend the Council proceed with these projects.

At its Sept. 23 meeting, the Council approved a new refrigeration system, rink floor and water filtering system for ice resurfacing at the Arena. Both the City and Apex have signed this amended contract, and Apex is busy ordering materials and lining up contractors.

At previous meetings, the Council approved new shower heads at the Arena along with an air conditioner in the dressing room and a new furnace for the lower level at the Theater.

The remaining Apex projects needing Parks and Rec Board review plus Council approval include new play features at the pool along with remodeling at the pool and arena. These projects should be ready for review in early 2025.

The Parks Department will be heading up the restrooms near the Splash Pad downtown, and this project should also be coming before the Parks and Rec Board along with the Council in early 2025.

Overall, the projects are currently \$180,000 or 1.8% over budget. The Council can cover the overrun with contingency funds and/or by reducing the remodeling at the arena and pool.

- **Cannabis businesses**

Also Oct. 14, the Council introduced regulations on cannabis businesses, including a limit of 2 cannabis retailers. They would need to meet zoning setbacks, provide proof of insurance, and have annual compliance checks for verifying customers at least 21 years old.

- **Public dock on Bridge Avenue**

The prep work is done for this public dock on Fountain Lake. The watershed district will install the dock in 2025.

- **Sidewalk on Greenwood**

The contractor has installed the sidewalk on Greenwood Drive, meaning people can more safely walk and bike on this street.

**\*\* Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- See Parks update

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 –

- See Parks update

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

- See staff reports