

MINUTES

City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2023
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Dave Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

ROLL CALL: RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Present: Kuznicki, Lee, Saddler, Pattison, Barr, McCumber, Melville-Hall

Absent: None

Staff: Steve Shultz (City Engineer), Rachel Smolinski (City Manager), Charlie Kendziorski, Cassie Stone (Recording Secretary).

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made by Melville-Hall, Seconded by McCumber, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 19, 2022) Motion made by Pattison, Seconded by Saddler, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss Culligan Plaza – Rachel stated we received over 1700 responses from the survey and about 1,000 comments. The city met with the Culligan Plaza committee and discussed the comments received. The city has been working with Drost Landscaping which is a Petoskey based firm. The First Federal Legacy Foundation hired Drost to present a more professional and polished plan. The committee has seen a number of different designs and those were sent back with some comments that came out of the survey comments. Expecting a design to come back later this month and will meet with the Culligan Plaza committee on January 30th and hope to have that design ready to be presented to council in February. We would then have a few weeks after to receive public comment and hope to have an approved design by the end of February. Any questions or comments the Recreation Board Members have can be emailed to Steve. The City will then have to see how much more money is needed to raise to follow through with the proposed design.

2. NOAA Design Plan for Waterfront Development – Steve showed a proposed design to the members of the board. The drawing showed a shipwreck play structure, fireplaces, and pavilions. They are proposing a huge public area for public enjoyment including a lot of learning areas. There is some money for some areas and looking at raising money for other areas. What is really needed to secure some of this money is some buy in from the city because it will have to eventually be public land or an easement across it to be public land. It is in the beginning stages right now, but a lot of the vegetation has been cleared out already. Rachel added that the City would have to have some sort of a formal agreement in place with the property owner, Jeff Konczak, to secure who is in charge of the maintenance of the equipment and lawn mowing, etc. which would be a lot of extra work for the City to manage and maintain but would provide a huge benefit for the community by providing a connection from NOAA property and the skatepark.
3. Discuss Water Tower/Skate Park and Access to NOAA Development – Have received some parts for the skatepark and should be up and running for this spring. Rachel stated for the March meeting we can pull up a map and find a good location for the skatepark at Mich-e-ke-wis. There will also be a vote for the location change for the concrete park. Will have more discussion about the skatepark at the next meeting.
4. Vote for Two Park Sign Replacement Priority – Hoping to get a request for proposals out in the spring to be able to hire a design company to come up with a few new designs that would complement all new signs going forward. Our current design worked at the time but is now outdated and something new is needed. Lee suggested Mich-e-ke-wis sign to be replaced first as there is a lot of traffic around that area as well as Starlite. Rachel would like to see Thomson sign also because of the poor quality of the sign if there was enough money available at the time. Motion made by Saddler, seconded by Lee to vote for Mich-e-ke-wis and Starlite Beach sign priority replaced and if enough money left, Thomson Park. Motion carried.
5. Two parks to discuss at March Meeting - Skatepark and Mich-e-ke-wis Park
6. Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule – Motion made by Pattison, seconded by McCumber, motion carried.

MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Kuznicki stated that the biggest complaint putting Culligan Plaza in the parking lot which used to be a car dealership who's roof collapsed during a snowstorm so the city bought that and the drug store and the bar next to the drug store. The lack of tax revenue was figured out, what it was going to cost to build those buildings and tear them down and how much would be made off each parking meter and found out it would have been a loss to the city even if every parking space was filled. That was the mindset when Culligan Plaza first came in there.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Melville-Hall, seconded by McCumber to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 by Chair Kuznicki.