

MINUTES

City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2022
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Dave Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

ROLL CALL: RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

Absent: Heath, Dowd

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Melville-Hall, to approve the agenda as printed, **seconded by Saddler**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 10, 2021

Motion made by Pattison, to approve the minutes as printed, **seconded by Melville-Hall**.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD: None

BUSINESS:

1. Introduction New Members & City Manager – Introduced new members as well as current members and staff.
2. Review CIP Projects - Steve explained the CIP process and allowed members to offer any input or ask questions before the CIP Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission and City Council during the middle of February. Rachel added that this year on the CIP a check box has been added to the CIP forms to show if a project is listed in the City's Master Plan. Rachel stated that she wants to see members get more involved in the planning process and providing input.
3. McRae Park Improvements – The Lion's Club has recently adopted McRae Park. They intend to update the playground equipment. The Lion's Club is coming up on their 100th anniversary in a few years and are looking for a legacy project. Should see improvements and updates over the next few years. Two tennis courts are going to become six pickleball courts. The City contributed \$10,000 toward the pickleball change over. The total project is \$40,000 with the rest of the money being raised. There are

between 80-100 people who participate in the indoor pickleball at the Apex. Pickleball courts should be ready for this summer.

4. Discuss Master Plan(s) – Steve briefly gave an explanation on each plan. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with each plan for future discussions and input. Rachel added that each plan is a living document and can be updated annually if needed. Could plan on scheduling a meeting possibly online to discuss the Master Plan in the future. Steve explained the marina master plan is in draft form. Going forward a plan needs to be put in place so there is a direction to go in revitalizing the marina. A master plan is also needed for applying for grants. The City hired NEMCOG to assist in helping to put the plan together which involves a public session and surveys. The draft is still in beginning phases and is open for member input. Expecting a more complete master plan by March. Rachel discussed some of the work and cleanup that has been done at the marina. All Marine is still providing services and to have a downtown within walking district is great for the marina and the City in bringing people in to town and showing people all Alpena has to offer.
5. Park Entrance and/or Wayfinding Signs Design – Steve stated park signs have been around for the last 17-18 years and are in need of replacement. Steve added that the sign design needs to be brought up to today's standards. Rachel mentioned adding some directional signage, so people are aware of where the parks are located. Hoping to update a couple of signs each year. Want to get a few different sign designs to bring to the board to gather input on selecting one. Steve asked for feedback from members on what signs are in the worst shape and get them prioritized for replacement. It might also be a good idea to put what organization adopted the park on the park sign so there could be some ownership for the group and people would know who to contact other than the City with any issues or ideas for the park.
6. Adopt-A-Park – Looking for more participation in the adopt-a-park program. Would like to present to groups in town the many still available adoptable parks. There are a lot of high school groups that need volunteer hours would also be another approach to draw interest. Rachel stated that South Riverfront Park behind the armory really needs some attention and sprucing up.

Rachel expressed that a lot of information has been presented tonight to think about and wants to really get the group active. A couple of parks to focus on for the next meeting will be Avery Park and Blair Street. It was agreed upon to meet every two months going forward verses quarterly. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Pattison, seconded by Melville - Hall, to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. by Chair Kuznicki.