

MINUTES

City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2021
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Dave Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

ROLL CALL: RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

Absent: Heath

Staff: Rich Sullenger (City Engineer), Andrea Kares (Director of Planning, Development, and Zoning) Shannon Smolinski (Engineering Assistant) Cassie Stone (Recording Secretary)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Dowd, to approve the agenda as printed, **seconded by Pattison**.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD: None

BUSINESS:

1. Introduction of new members Jesse Pattison, Griffin Saddler and Kathleen Melville-Hall to the board.

All members introduced themselves and gave the board a little bit of background on themselves.

2. Election of officers

Motion made by Dowd to elect Kuznicki as Chairman, **seconded by Melville-Hall**

Motion made by Melville-Hall to elect Dowd as Vice-Chair, **seconded by Saddler**.

Motion carried.

3. Discuss Recreation Plans

Sullenger stated that now is the time the City is able to apply for MDNR grant projects. A couple of the projects that are going to be pursued through the MDNR trust fund are looking at putting in a new bathroom pavilion facility in Bayview Park. Somewhere north of the Kiddy Park and relatively close to the band shell so people in the park wouldn't have to cross the street to

access the bathroom. Currently in the process of putting together plans and will then need to get authorization from City Council to pursue the grant. The City would also like to reconstruct the Culligan Plaza fountain by bringing it up so it is flush to grade to avoid a safety hazard. Sullenger added that there is a possibility of some local dollars from a private source. DDA has funded installation of more bike racks downtown. One has already been installed last fall but looking at installing 2-3 additional ones. The City has committed to putting additional bike racks within the parks. Shannon Smolinski, Engineering Assistant, has recently been promoted to Harbormaster. There are many future ideas and improvements that will be addressed at the Marina to make it more presentable and inviting. Sullenger added that he is also currently working with Andrea Kares on the parks use policy. Once completed it will be sent out the Recreation Board for comments. City Manager Smolinski asked that the Recreation Board submit recommendations on the changes that are presented when they become available. The City has also been working with the Farmers Market group. They are looking at using the Mich-e-ke-wis Warming Shelter on Saturdays and Wednesdays. The City will also have that facility available for rental to the public to use for various events once rental rates are established.

MEMBER'S COMMENTS:

Dowd stated he is really excited about the pump track idea and believes it will be more user friendly and is less intimidating than the skill park. Sullenger stated that during the public comment section there was not a lot of support for it and local support is needed. Pattison stated that adding that addition would give some people over the age of 12-14 something to do other than sit on the beach because there isn't much to do there. Pattison asked if there has been any consideration of putting in a crosswalk by the Mason, State Street area. Sullenger stated that since it is a state highway MDOT has indicated that it would be more dangerous to install a crosswalk since it's not a high accident area. Dowd questioned whether the section of the bike path along the Thunder Bay River on the back corner of the Holiday Inn that was underwater on and off through last summer had any plans been in the works to raise the elevation or wait for the water to go down. Sullenger will look into it. Kuznicki stated the section of the bike path that splits into a Y going through the duck park is very dark in that corner and could use a light in that area. Sullenger stated that there are some lighting projects in the works for instance the lighting along the M-32 corridor and the City could also look into that area. Melville-Hall questioned if it would be feasible to change the Duck Park name back to Island Park and Oxbow Island like it was many years ago. Sullenger stated that Wildlife Sanctuary Board oversees the park and island.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Dowd, to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Kuznicki.