

MINUTES

City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2023
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Dave Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

ROLL CALL: RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

Absent: McCumber, Barr

Staff: Steve Shultz (City Engineer), Kevin Fisher (Parks Coordinator), Rachel Smolinski (City Manager), Cassie Stone (Recording Secretary).

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July 20, 2023, October 11, 2023) *Motion made by Saddler, Seconded by Lee, motion carried.*

COMMUNICATIONS: Steve introduced Kevin Fisher, the new Harbormaster/Parks Coordinator to the board. Kevin told the board that he moved to Alpena from Marquette a few years ago. He graduated from Northern with a degree in outdoor leadership recreation and management and was Marquette's Harbormaster and Recreation Coordinator for about a year and a half. He is very excited and is looking forward to working with the City, board members and residents here in Alpena to further what we are trying to do in the Master Plans and make everything accessible, fun, entertaining, and help to bring more people back to the area. All board members introduced themselves and told Kevin a little about themselves.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss & Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule – Kuznicki requested to move February 7th meeting date to February 21st. *Motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule with the request to move February meeting date made by Lee, Seconded by Melville-Hall, motion carried.*

2. REVIEW CIP Parks & Lighting – Steve explained that a lot of stuff on the CIP forms just moves up from year to year. These forms are very tentative and in a draft format at this point. Now is the time for anything that needs to be added or subtracted. Steve added no design work has been done at this point and the numbers are what we think it will cost. Rachel stated she hasn't had a chance to review the forms yet. We are just getting the information out to the boards for review and a staff review meeting is scheduled for January. Saddler liked the idea of pickleball lighting at McRae Park. Steve stated that can definitely be up for discussion because he was under the assumption that lighting was not needed there. Rachel mentioned the narrative under McRae Park still states that we are "Adding \$10,000 commitment from City Council for pickleball court installation" and needs to be updated. Lee questioned what the timeline was for moving the volleyball courts at Mich-e-ke-wis. Steve stated they were budgeted this past year but did not make the cut because parks are part of the General Fund so it was an easy project to move to the following year because the grant is good for two years. Probably will see them moved in the fall. The new playground equipment will most likely happen in the spring. Melville-Hall is concerned about the location of the new playground equipment and the safety of younger kids running back and forth from the equipment to the water. Steve stated the area where the old playground equipment is the area where the volleyball courts are getting relocated to. Rachel stated the area where the volleyball courts are now, that section of the beach will be restored as part of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects with Huron Pines and we have been applying for grants. Steve stated some of the equipment may stay on that side of the park and its still a work in progress. Rachel added that there has been a lot of talk of Mich-e-ke-wis being a winter sports park, but the weather has not been cooperating and we just don't get the cold and the snow like we used to. There are plans to try and do a little ice rink for the Ice Fest this year and a sledding hill.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS: Saddler stated he likes the lighting on the pathway at Sytek Park. Kuznicki asked Rachel if she received any public comments on the REC plan. Rachel stated she received a couple of comments from one citizen but right now it's still in the public comment period and is hoping to receive some more comments.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting date is scheduled for February 21, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Lee, Seconded by Melville-Hall, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Kuznicki.