

Altoona Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2014

The Altoona Parks & Recreation Board met on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Paula Winslow, Steve Moyna, Brigid Ernst, Scott Sloan, Shane Isley, Phyllis Murphy, Amy McAllister, Tim Van Wyk, Parks Director, and Jody Evans, Secretary.

Absent: Jeremy Boka.

A quorum was declared by Chairperson Brigid Ernst.

Minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Phyllis Murphy, seconded by Shane Isley. 5 ayes and 1 pass. Motion carried.

Visitors: Teri Henkel, Cheryl Hanniford, Matt Crowl, Bruce Mason, Tom Johnston, Paula Secker-Johnston, Billy Sowder, Lisa Ray and Dharl Bagley, Ryan Hermes and Quinn Miller, Brett Handy, Doug Teuber.

Teri Henkel presented the plan for the Altoona Arbor Day and Health and Wellness Celebration. There will be a Push, Peddle, Fun Walk beginning at 9:00 a.m., and an Arbor Day Celebration at the Enabling Garden at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2014, and a Health and Wellness Fair from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with lots of fun events planned. A motion was made by Phyllis Murphy to support this event, seconded by Steve Isley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Teri Henkel also presented a plan that she has been working on with the City, establishing an Altoona Community Garden by Lions Park. There will be plots available for the public and for FFA and Youth participation planned for the garden. There will be an application to fill out and deliver to City Hall for processing and a list of guidelines for the individuals to follow. There will be two sizes of plots available \$10.00 for a 6x6 plot and \$35.00 for a 6x17 plot. A motion was made by Shane Isley, seconded by Scott Sloan to support the Community Garden.

Paula Johnston discussed with the board, her idea to have Yoga in the Garden, to be held at the Enabling Garden. She plans to use a grassy area near the Enabling Garden. This will be a free event and Paula is looking at holding this one Saturday a month in June 21, 2014, July 19, 2014, and August 16, 2014. A motion was made by Paula Winslow, seconded by Shane Isley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ryan Hermes and Quinn Miller discussed with the board building a Remote Control track at Lions Park for battery operated cars. There is a similar track in Urbandale. The boys have been working with City staff on this track. A motion was made by Paula Winslow, and seconded by Shane Isley to support this project. All ayes. Motion carried.

Bruce Mason said that they are looking at starting a new program called "Let's Move Cities, Towns and Countries." It is a program looking at childhood obesity. There are

around 405 Cities already in the program and 28 in a four state region. A motion was made by Shane Isley, seconded by Scott Sloan to support this program. All ayes. Motion carried.

Bruce Mason then updated the board on the Aquatic Park for the 2014 season. They will be keeping the cost the same this year. Last year, the season for them being open was short and the weather did not cooperate. On June 20, 2014, they will again participate in the largest Swim Lesson as they have done in the last couple of years.

Bruce Mason also briefed the board on the Wee Ball the Altoona Campus manages in the spring. It is for 3 to 5 year old's beginning Monday, April 21, 2014, and goes through Saturday, May 17, 2014. So far there are 219 kids signed up for the spring. The cost is \$40.00 and they do receive a shirt and hat.

Bruce Mason also spoke on the Flag Football program that is in the fall. It runs September through October. They have kids participating that are in grades second through seventh. There are around 200 kids in the program. The cost is \$75.00 and that does include a jersey and mouth guard.

Lisa Ray, President of the Altoona Girls Softball, updated the board on their league. There has been a lot of changes in their board, and Lisa is helping establish a set of guidelines for everyone to follow in the future, so things are done in a timely manner. They have 316 players. They are busy getting their schedule set up for the season. They has a couple of projects they are working on, such as batting cages, repairing the pitching lanes, and some fencing issues. They would also like to restore the netting that stops foul balls. Additional permanent bathrooms would really be nice for the complex. Field #1 is also not handicap accessible and they would like to make accessible for those needing to use it. Field #3 has a drainage issue that needs to be corrected.

Dharl Bagley, President of the Altoona Baseball, updated the board on their league. They have 468 boys from U6 to U16. They have seven fields and space is always an issue for them. They would like to host some tournaments including the World Series tournament, but permanent restrooms would really make them a prime location to host such events. They have done lots of upkeep with buildings and equipment.

Cheryl Hanniford, Vice President of the Altoona Youth Soccer Association updated the board on their league. There are 12 board members on the board. They have a few positions up in July. This spring there were 400 kids signing up. Fall is a bigger season and there is usually around 800 kids signing up. Soccer has had a few vandalism problems in the last year. They are working on security and doing some repairs to help discourage this from happening in the future. AYSA has wanted to begin hosting some tournaments and are hoping to pull that together in the near future. Soccer would like to see the north parking lot added in the near future.

Bill Sowder updated the board on the Adult Softball Association. Bill is working on getting more help with repairs and maintance. He is hiring out the turf maintance this spring. They are putting a new roof and paint on the concession stand and they are replacing and fixing the fencing on the fields. They would like to add advertising signs on the fences. He will talk with City staff to see if that is a possibility. It is \$400.00 to

sign a team up. There are fourteen games and league tournaments. Bill would like to partner with Altoona Palooza and host a 24 hour tournament during this event. He will talk to the committee and see what they think.

Doug Teuber discussed his desire to bring in a military tank for display in a park in Altoona. He is still working with City staff for a place to put the tank if he is granted permission to have one. He also said that the plane should be painted this spring.

Park Update: Tim Van Wyk updated the board on what they have been doing the past month. They have been busy getting parks and the restrooms ready to open and doing regular maintenance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paula Winslow, seconded by Shane Isley at 9:00 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.