

Altoona Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, 2010

The Altoona Parks & Recreation Board met on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Howard Johnson, Paula Smith, Jill Pudenz, Phyllis Murphy, Rod Marvin, Madonna Warren, Paula Winslow, Jerry Nolin, Tim Van Wyk, Parks Director, and Jody Evans, Secretary.

Absent were: None.

Minutes of the June 23, 2010 meeting were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Rod Marvin, seconded by Phyllis Murphy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors: Kim Roush, Dave Underwood and Chad Agan.

Dave Underwood spoke regarding the Altoona Little League and improving it in the community. Dave stated that even though the City has grown, their league is decreasing in participation. The Altoona Little League would like to propose a change for the 2011 season to become an independent Baseball Club USSSA instead of what they are currently. It will provide more structure and the flexibility they are looking for. The season would start around the third week of April and end the third week of June. Then they would have a City Championship. The reason for this needed change is to have more control over starting and ending times, residency requirements, Right now there are strict district guidelines for where a player lives. Many residents fall outside of this residency requirement and is forced to play for another league or simply not play at all. Altoona Girls Softball currently does not have this residency requirement and their league has many more participants in it. Howard Johnson asked if this was an agreed upon change? Howard does not want to see a split in the league. Dave assured him that they had already taken this to their board and was voted unanimously in favor of this formation. A motion was made by Jill Pudenz that the Park Board supports the Altoona Little League to change affiliation to an independent status pending Council and staff approval. Seconded by Paula Smith. All ayes. Motion approved. Jerry Nolin suggested the Altoona Little League come to a council workshop and discuss this.

Park update:

Southeast Polk Tackle Football League Lease was presented and discussed. A motion by Phyllis Murphy to accept the lease and seconded by Paul Winslow. All ayes. Motion carried.

Altoona Soccer Park is behind schedule because of all of the rain and bad weather this spring and summer. Realistically the staff is looking at a fall start for the soccer complex.

The trail at Ironwood from 21st toward the sledding hill will start next week.

The Adventureland Drive landscaping will be address as time allows. There have been complaints that drivers cannot see over the grass to see vehicles coming towards them as

they are turning out. Tim Van Wyk said that they are planning on transplanting the plants to another area.

The Townsend Park Area on 1st Ave, South will be donated to the City of Altoona. The Park Department will make a few changes to it when that donation is completed, but could be as long as next year before it is completed.

There was a letter passed around from a resident praising the City for the dog park. Tim said that it will probably be July first of 2011 before money will be available for any changes there. People are really using the facility. The grass is worn down and over 600 dog waste bags have been used in the last six months.

At Haines Park, there are two sections of paving by the restrooms that need to be repaired.

There was an error in the Adult Softball League website. It read that “you could not bring in any drinks and or food”, which is contradictory of what the Park Board address and changed last fall. The Park Board would like to invite Bill Sowder, representative with the Adult Softball League, be present at the next board meeting to discuss this item.

Jill Pudenz spoke on the Civic Plaza. There were swimmers in the fountain and the splash park was not operating one evening when she was there. Tim said that he believes the splash park area shuts down after 8:00 p.m. The Park Department spends about 4 hours each week at the fountain alone in upkeep. There is algae that builds up quickly on the rocks of the fountain.

The windmill at the Altoona Library is working but, Tim reminded the Park Board that there has to be wind before it will operate.

Paula Winslow would like to have a fundraiser in the enabling garden, selling old garden tools and plants. Tim Van Wyk thought maybe she should take it up with the City Council and staff for approval.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jill Pudenz, seconded by Paula Winslow, at 8:15 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.