

Altoona Parks & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 24, 2016

The Altoona Parks & Recreation Board met on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at Altoona City Hall. Members present were: Paula Winslow, Steve Moyna, Brigid Ernst, Tom Downs, Scott Atzen – Public Works Director, Tim Van Wyk - Park Supervisor, and Jody Phelps- Secretary.

Absent was: Scott Sloan, Shane Isley and Lynnette Richey.
Quorum was declared.

Minutes of the July 27, 2016 meeting were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Tom Downs, seconded by Brigid Ernst. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors were: Jennifer Stevens, Rose Tallman, Serena Ika, Carol Islee, Emma Schaefer, Justin Gutem, Kim Kietzman, Asiola Dogeni, Amber Essary, and Ray Wiltgen.

Ray Wiltgen, representing the Altoona Baseball League. They are in a crisis with no one stepping up to be President, Vice President or Secretary. If they do not get help they may have to disband. They sent out an email, which has not proved to be very helpful. Jennifer Stevens commented that she was one of the parents who received that email, but did not read it because it appeared to be another email from them but did not see the crisis when she looked at it. Tim Van Wyk suggested going to the Altoona Herald, Altoona Living Magazine or the Des Moines Register and have them run a dire need story, and possibly some parents may need see the urgency and step up. Scott Atzen said that City and Campus staff have discussed whether they may be able to help with field maintenance and give them a place to have centralized registration. Currently they have an estimated 375 kids and no volunteer parents. Tim asked if it would be possible for them to name an interim President, and Ray did not know if that was in their bylaws.

Kim Kietzman, Director at the Altoona Public Library informed the board that the Tale Trails Program has now been fully funded. A map was handed out and Kim would like the approval of the board on the placement of the boards and would like to now move on to the City Council for approval of the program. A motion was made by Brigid Ernst to support the program, seconded by Steve Moyna. All ayes. Motion carried.

Justin Gutem, representing Cyclocross would like to hold two events in Altoona this fall. The first one is Spooky Cross, being held in the Aquatic Center Parking and green space north of it. The date is October 29, 2016 and October 30, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are estimating 600 people. The second event would be to again host their Iowa State Cyclocross Championships. This would be held at Lions Park on December 3, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They have held this event there for several years and will host an estimated 400 people. A motion was made by Tom Downs to support both Cyclocross events, seconded by Paula Winslow. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jennifer Stevens, representing Girl Scout troop #420 would like to hold an event at the Enabling Garden on September 24, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This would be a community event called Bee Educated and would help educate on the pollination process of bees. They are still lining up particulars but hoping for scientists, bee keepers and possibly someone from the Iowa Honeybee Association to be on hand for the event. Rain date would be October 1, 2016. A motion to support the event was made by Steve Moyna, seconded by Brigid Ernst. All ayes. Motion carried.

Park update –

Tennis courts are scheduled to be completed and open by late September. Right now, they are finishing up on painting and cementing the borders. Altoona Palooza is this coming weekend. Parks staff is getting things prepared for that event. Paula Winslow asked if the ash trees at the Enabling Garden can be taken out late fall. Tim agreed that they will schedule that to be done. New dog park costs are being budgeted for the next fiscal year. Music in the Park is this weekend at the Haines Stage at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. was made by Tom Downs, seconded by Brigid Ernst. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.