

Altoona Parks & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018

The Altoona Parks & Recreation Board met on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Steve Moyna, Brigid Ernst, Mike Wall, Shane Isley, Beth Van Ryswyk, Sandie Hamilton, Scott Duer Council liaison, Tim Van Wyk, Parks Director.

Absent: Scott Atzen and Jody Phelps.

A quorum was declared.

Minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Steve Moyna, seconded by Beth Van Ryswyk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors: Terri Henkels, Bill Sowder, Jenny Weber, Keith Hyland, Nancy Ikeman and Walt Mozdier.

Altoona Walkability Assessment, Terri Henkels with Healthy Altoona Partnership and Jen Weber with Wellmark Healthy Hometown addressed the board on a walkability study performed last fall. The area looked at was from 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Walmart along 8th St. SW. The City asked them to look at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N as well and they plan to report back soon on that area.

Community Orchard, Nancy Ikeman and Terri Henkels addressed the board about a request to plant 3-4 fruit trees near the War Memorial and Enabling Garden behind Hy-Vee. They have a grant to pay for the trees and mulch to place around them. This grant can be reapplied for each year with no guarantee that it will funded.

They asked that city staff plant, mulch, and water the trees.

They hope to have volunteers harvest the fruit and donate it to local food pantries. They hope to have trained volunteers prune and care for the trees.

They also asked to place signage near the trees.

Tim Van Wyk stated he and Chris Rhinehart had met with the group and looked at the location. Concerns by the Parks Dept. include:

Dropped fruit being removed regularly.

That the trees are properly pruned.

Vandals using the fruit.

The fact that trees are not forever and that if problem arise the trees maybe removed any time by city staff.

It was also discussed that the area south of the memorial is used for tents during some events and the locations of the trees would need to accommodate for that.

Brigid made a motion, seconded by Steve, all ayes. Pending staff and council approval the group be allowed to establish fruit trees at the above mentioned location.

Adult Softball, Bill Sowder with Adult Softball addressed the board wanting to take advantage of the matching grant fund for repairs to the field lights.

The estimate for repairs is \$10,600. The amount from the city would be \$5,300.

Bill stated he has leagues every week night and tournaments most weekends.

The board asked Tim if these repairs were necessary considering the Master Plan for Lion's Park.

Tim let the board know that timing for the large scale improvements is several years away. The lighting issues are a safety concern for players and spectators alike and repairs are necessary now.

Beth made a motion, seconded by Mike, all ayes. Motion to approve using matching grant funds for the repair of the lights.

Altoona Campus Boot Camp, Beth Van Ryswyk spoke on behalf of the Campus. They want to use the parks for outdoor summer workout classes.

Dates: June 11 thru July 26

Times: starting at 5:15 am

Parks one per week:

Phoenix, Haines, Ironwood, Village, Lions, and Ironwood again.

Tim brought up the only thing from last year was the restrooms are locked until 7:00am.

Staff will look into changing the time the restrooms open for the week.

Mike Wall made a motion, seconded by Brigid Ernst, all ayes. Approve for Altoona Campus Boot Camp to use the above mentioned parks for the classes.

Park Update:

In recognition of Arbor Day, the City of Altoona will be selling a limited supply of trees to residents, limit 2 per household. The trees offered are Chinkapin Oak, White Pine, Ohio Buckeye and Ginkgo. The Cost is \$25.00 per tree. You can pick them up on April 28, 2018 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Enabling Garden.

Staff is preparing to spread crabgrass preventer plus fertilizer. They will do facilities and medians. They refreshed the tee box signs for Frisbee golf and installed new posts. The numbers were faded and some posts were working up from the ground. Staff has also been picking up trash along the roadways, trails, parks and facilities. It is hard to tell sometimes where staff has picked up as more seems to blow in right behind them. Dog Park is still getting renovations completed. It is still too wet to place the fire hydrant and the guys have made another obstacle to jump (looks like a tie fighter from Star Wars). Once the ground is suitable we have a number of main breaks to backfill, grade and seed. Staff is busy doing many other projects these are just the highlights of what have been accomplished.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sandie Hamilton, seconded by Brigid Ernst at 7:35 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.