

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held Monday, June 26, 2023, at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Roger Allman, Blaine Lafler, Andi Whitmore, and Luke Wright.
Absent: Kim Alonzi, Josh Higbie, and Jamie Jerome (arrived after roll call).
Also present: Curtis Dancer, and Aeris Ripley.

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum of the Committee membership was present.

Motion by Whitmore, seconded by Allman, to approve the minutes of April 24, 2023, and May 22, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Lafler, Whitmore, and Wright.
No: none.
Absent: Alonzi, Higbie, and Jerome.

Update on Master Plan Status

Finance Director Dancer shared results of the public input open houses held June 20th and June 21st. He noted approximately 200 public input surveys have been received to date and July 10th will be the final day for accepting surveys. Dancer said the next step will be reviewing surveys and compiling results, which will be shared at the next meeting. He asked members to plan to put together a list of priorities at the next meeting, and said he expects the project will be finalized by late fall, if not earlier.

City Manager Aeris Ripley said projects costs would need to be updated as well.

Update on SPARK Grant Applications

Ripley explained that grant applications for both proposed projects would be submitted by the end of the day. He said he had received letters of support from the Commission on Aging, the Masonic Lodge, Keep Alma Beautiful, and Greater Gratiot Development. At a question from Dancer, Ripley explained results from the last round of grants had taken approximately a month and a half. He said he expects this round of grants will have a shorter turn-around time.

Jamie Jerome arrived at 6 :14p.m.

Discussion-Proposed Public Bike Repair Stand

Dancer spoke about a bike repair stand that has been donated by Chris Maltby for public use. A tentative location has been determined and DPW will prepare a concrete pad to mount the new bike repair stand. Maltby and other area cyclists have also offered donations to cover the cost of the concrete pad.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Allman, to accept the donation from Chris Maltby of a bike repair stand for public use in the Alma Parks system. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Jerome, Lafler, Whitmore, and Wright.
No: none.
Absent: Alonzi, and Higbie.

Brief discussion followed about a new bench recently installed that was donated by Linda Cook, in memory of her husband, Jeff Cook. Committee members expressed appreciation for both donations.

Allman asked for an update on security cameras. Ripley explained he is working on a quote for something similar to what has been installed at the Library, and suggested the Herb Lueth Endowment may cover much of the cost. The system will be installed by DPW and monitored by the Police Department. They will start with Wright Park and Euclid Ball Fields and work on additional parks as funds become available.

Ripley also noted there are Committee vacancies which need to be filled. He said he had some potential candidates and asked members for help with others.


Whitmore asked about taking care of the finishing items at Wright Park and finalizing the project. Brief discussion followed. Ripley said he would work with DPW Superintendent Jim Goodhall on the remaining items.

Motion by Lafler, seconded by Allman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Yes: Allman, Jerome, Lafler, Whitmore, and Wright.

No: none.

Absent: Alonzi, and Higbie.



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: August 28, 2023