

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held Monday, August 28, 2023, at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Roger Allman, Josh Higbie, Jamie Jerome, Blaine Lafler, Andi Whitmore, and Luke Wright.
Absent: Kim Alonzi.
Also present: Curtis Dancer, David Ringle, and Aeric Ripley.

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum of the Committee membership was present.

Motion by Whitmore, seconded by Allman, to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023, and July 24, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Alma Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Input Survey

Finance Director Dancer reviewed the results of a recent public survey for input regarding Alma parks. He noted several of the comments related to the softball and baseball fields. Brief discussion followed regarding the survey results. City Manager Aeric Ripley said there is also a need for green space, and the group will need to weigh the benefits of building more versus the continued and rising costs of upkeep. Discussion followed.

Motion by Whitmore, seconded by Allman, to receive the results of the Alma Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Input Survey. Motion carried.

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

Goals and Objectives and the Capital Improvement Program

Dancer asked the group to next consider developing a list of priorities for the master plan. Discussion followed and the group suggested updating security, consistent and updated signage, and a dog park. Ideas and concerns were both presented and discussed including secured gating versus unsecured gating for the dog park, posted rules, and liability considerations. Additional discussion followed regarding pickleball courts and the need for updates at the Euclid and Washington ballfields. Allman suggested adding ballfield updates to the list of priorities. Dancer agreed saying additional grant opportunities could be available for items listed as priorities. Dancer asked the group to consider the priority list from the last master plan. He noted some have been completed, but asked the group to determine if any items could be added. Discussion followed regarding parks not included in the previous list. Dancer suggested rebranding and updating the parks website. Additional discussion followed regarding the proposed programming director position. Whitmore suggested adding directional signage as well.

Update on Grant Applications

Dancer provided an update on recent and upcoming grant application submissions, noting SPARKS grant awards have not been made yet, and a MI Community Center grant application is currently in process for the addition of a full-time employee for recreation programming. Discussion followed about details of the grant application.


Motion by Whitmore, seconded by Allman, to appoint Luke Wright to execute the Michigan Community Center Grant Application, and authorize him to sign on behalf of the Alma Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion carried.

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

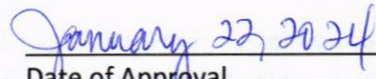
City Manager Ripley provided a brief update on the progress at the new pocket park.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Allman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Motion carried.

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



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk



Date of Approval