

**City of Alma Parks Committee
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held October 23, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

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

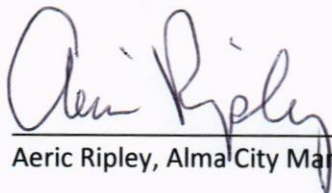
A quorum of the Committee was not present. Curtis Dancer chaired the meeting, and explained to those present that an official meeting could not be conducted without a quorum.

Dancer provided an overview of the most current Priority Action Plan and the Goals and Objectives for the Park and Recreation Master Plan. At the next regular meeting a draft of the plan will be ready to be received by the committee for review. Once the review is complete, the next step will be to make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Ripley provided an update on the SPARK Grants; neither of the requested projects were funded (Trail Expansion to St. Louis or Riverside Park Pavilion). The city also applied to the State of Michigan for a MI Community Center Grant Program. The city also submitted a Public Spaces Application to MEDC for the Riverside Park Pavilion, which was unsuccessful. The City's request is for the development of a Recreation Programming Department. The grant would fund a position for three years if successful. There are many applications, and the State sent notice it would take another month to review and recommend approvals.

The pocket park downtown between the Alma Community Arts Center and the Strand Theater is 80% complete. The stamped concrete, north ballads and street curb and sidewalk has been completed. The string lights over the alley and the large banner poles are still in need of installation for the community banners that hang over Superior Street throughout the year. The project received a \$50,000 from the Gratiot County Parks Millage grant to assist with the project. The group discussed the upcoming Christmas celebration downtown.

Being no other business, the meeting recessed, and the group disbanded at 6:31 p.m.


Aeric Ripley, Alma City Manager

1-22-2024
Date of Approval