



Alma Parks Committee

Agenda

Park Meeting – February 26, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Alma Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2024.
 - a. Copy of the Draft Minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting
2. Update on Grant Applications and Potential Grant Opportunities
 - a. Michigan Community Center and Neighborhood Initiative Grant
 - b. Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Grants
 - c. Community Forestry Grant
 - d. Other Future Grant Opportunities
3. FY 2025 Parks Capital Budget
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held Monday, January 22, 2024, at the Alma Municipal Building.

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

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum of the Committee membership was present.

Motion by Allman, seconded by Whitmore, to approve minutes of August 28, 2023, October 23, 2023, and December 18, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Proposed Play Structure Presentation from Liberty Cromer, Scout Troup 611

Liberty Cromer provided a draft drawing to those present of a play structure she is proposing for Wright Park.

Luke Wright arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Liberty explained the project would be a last step necessary for her to attain her Eagle Badge and provided her ideas for the climbing wall structure. She noted the project would be completed in three stages and would be designed to be used by older children and teenagers to add another level to the Wright Park playground.

Marleen Cromer explained they will be approaching Home Depot for a grant to cover costs of lumber and local landscapers for help with wood chips.

Whitmore asked if fall zones had been taken into account in their plan. Marleen said they were taking that into consideration and were still working out details for the location and structure. Discussion followed regarding the design of the structure.

David Ringle, Public Services Director, said the city would provide fibar for the project (instead of wood chips) and he asked questions about the proposed design and possible hazards.

City Manager Aeric Ripley asked the Cromers to work with Ringle and the Public Works Superintendent to iron out the details on the structure. He indicated the concept could be approved by the Committee in order to move the project forward.

Motion by Allman, seconded by Whitmore, to approve the conceptual design of a climbing wall play structure proposed for Wright Park by Liberty Cromer of Scout Troop 611. Motion carried.

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

Review and Approval of the Draft 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan

Finance Director Dancer reviewed the draft master plan previously provided to members. He noted there are still a few items to be addressed, but the plan is nearly 95% complete. He asked for concerns and questions.

Allman asked if the fairgrounds were considered a city park. Brief discussion followed. Ripley indicated they are owned by the county and not included in the plan.

Whitmore asked if St. Mary School should be included. Ripley agreed it should be included. Dancer said he would add it to the draft.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Allman, to approve the Draft 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan, as submitted with the addition of St. Mary School. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Alonzi and Jerome.

Update on Grant Applications

Dancer said he had received word that a decision would be made on grant awards by the end of the month. He added it may be possible that they are awarded partial funding. If that is the case, the Committee will need to decide if they wish to reduce the scope of the project to stay within budget, fundraise, or approach the City Commission for additional funds.

No additional business was presented, and no public comments were offered.

Motion by Whitmore, seconded by Allman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. Motion carried.

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

No: none.

Absent: Alonzi and Jerome.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval