



Alma Parks Committee

Agenda

Park Meeting – June 26, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Alma Park Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2023 and May 22, 2023
 - a. Copy of the Draft Minutes from the April 24th meeting
 - b. Copy of the Draft Minutes from the May 22nd meeting
2. Update on Status of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan
3. Updates on the Spark Grant Applications
4. Discussion on a Proposed Public Bike Repair Stand for the Mountain Bike Trail
 - a. Photo of the proposed stand
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held April 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Bill Gorton, Josh Higbie, Jamie Jerome, Blaine Lafler, Aeris Ripley, and Luke Wright.
Absent: Roger Allman, Kim Alonzi, and Andi Whitmore.

Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Lily Boutwell and Katie Grover from the Gratiot-Isabella RESD were present. Boutwell explained their wish to get more involved with local communities and assist with the Parks master planning project.

Minutes

Motion by Jerome, seconded by Lafler, to approve minutes of March 27, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Yes: Gorton, Higbie, Jerome, Lafler, and Wright.

No: none.

Absent: Allman, Alonzi, and Whitmore.

Ripley provided a brief update on the bump track proposal from Chris Maltby. He explained they are working on a site plan survey which will go to Consumers Energy to provide proof that the track won't interfere with overhead lines.

Ripley also noted he had met with a local Scout, who is working on a merit badge and lives near Holiday Park, to get feedback and discuss ideas for a dog park within existing tennis courts at Holiday Park. Discussion followed regarding possible plans for a solid fence between the tennis courts and basketball courts and improvements to the basketball courts. Public Services Director David Ringle explained that a portion of Holiday Park is a "no dig" archeological site and would have to be considered prior to improvements.

MEDC Public Gathering Spaces Initiative

Ripley provided information regarding a grant application opportunity for improvements to the Riverside Park through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for public gathering spaces. A public hearing is scheduled for April 25, 2023, during a City Commission meeting, to receive public comment on the application. A 10% local match is required for the grant. Ripley asked for a motion in support of the application and said the application would be submitted April 28th if approved by the City Commission.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Jerome, in support of a grant application submission for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Gathering Spaces Initiative Grant for improvements at Riverside Park. Motion carried.

Yes: Gorton, Higbie, Jerome, Lafler, and Wright.

No: none.

Absent: Allman, Alonzi, and Whitmore.

Ripley also explained that the city was not successful in their application for a SPARK grant for improvements to the Riverside Park and Trail Expansion. He provided recently received scoring information. Members reviewed and discussed results and agreed to focus on the Riverside Park riverwalk project in the next round.

Park Plan Survey

Ripley provided a copy of a survey used for the previous parks planning process and asked for suggestions for updates. He said the RESD had offered to assist with sending out surveys. Discussion followed between the Committee, Boutwell, and Grover about electronic and paper surveys and opportunities for getting them out to the public. Jerome asked about creating a QR code that could help residents easily access an online survey. Boutwell agreed it could be easily done. Ripley asked members to provide feedback on the survey, so it could be created and sent out by the weekend.

Discussion followed about the new Farmer's Market location.

Community Meetings for Public Input

Ripley asked members about timing for scheduling community meetings. Discussion followed. Members agreed early June, following the end of the school year, would be the best time to catch people. Additional discussion followed about trends for uses of public parks.

Other Business

Motion by Wright, seconded by Gorton, to approve minutes of August 22, 2022, September 26, 2022, October 24, 2022, and December 6, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Yes: Gorton, Higbie, Jerome, Lafler, and Wright.

No: none.

Absent: Allman, Alonzi, and Whitmore.

Brief discussion followed about getting the park plan survey updated and made available.

Ripley noted the next regular meeting date is May 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Gorton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Yes: Gorton, Higbie, Jerome, Lafler, and Wright.

No: none.

Absent: Allman, Alonzi, and Whitmore.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held May 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

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

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum of the Committee was not present.

Dancer noted that since a quorum was not present the meeting would be for discussion only.

Allman suggested consideration of a change in meeting dates or times to help with attendance.

Dancer asked if there were any issues with minutes from the prior meeting. No corrections or changes were suggested.

Dancer turned discussion to the open house schedule for the parks planning process. Discussion followed regarding possible locations, the last day of the current school year, and the new farmers market location. Allman volunteered to set up a booth at the farmers market to gather feedback with citizen surveys. Members agreed on June 17th for the farmers market from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Open houses for public input will be scheduled for the week following the 17th. Dancer and City Manager Aeric Ripley will check availability for banquet rooms at the Library and the Elks Club. The open houses will follow a format similar to that used with the last planning process. Allman noted he will need supplies and surveys for the booth and asked if the QR code would be available for use that day.

Ripley provided an update on vandalism at the new parks restrooms. The majority of the damage is at the Wright Park restrooms, but there is also damage at Euclid Ball Fields. He has asked Public Services and Public Safety to work together to seek proposals for security cameras. Discussion followed about vandalism in the parks. Ripley said a ribbon cutting would be scheduled for the new facilities later in the summer, and he will be seeking grants to help repair the vandalism damage. Jerome asked about installing donor plaques saved from the old playground fence at Wright Park.

Dancer said he will schedule the open houses and send out an email with information. Brief discussion followed about committee member participation in the open houses.

Allman asked if a brief description of each park's location could be added to the survey. Ripley suggested a link could be included for a park map on the city website.

Additional brief discussion followed about repairs to the asphalt at the boat launch.

The group disbanded at 6: 23 p.m.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval

