

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee held Monday, April 22, 2024, at the Alma Municipal Building, was called to order by Finance Director Curtis Dancer at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Present: Roger Allman, Josh Higbie (arrived after roll call), Jamie Jerome, Blaine Lafler, Andi Whitmore, and Luke Wright.

Absent: Kim Alonzi.

Also present: Curtis Dancer and Aeris Ripley.

**Motion by Wright, seconded by Allman, to approve February 26, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

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

**No: none.**

**Absent: Alonzi.**

*Update on Parks & Recreation Coordinator Position*

Director Dancer told members that Morgan Most has been officially hired as the new Parks & Recreation Coordinator. He noted that he hoped, even though the program is getting a late start, that they will be able to get several programs up and running. Dancer also indicated Most would be working from several locations including the municipal building and library.

Allman asked if she would be taking over the "Music in the Park" program.

Member Josh Higbie arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Dancer said Most would be working with several groups regarding currently existing programs. They are also hoping to schedule a few different sports tournaments before the end of the season. Discussion followed regarding available ball fields.

Whitmore reminded Dancer that there are several camps held during the summer season that Most will want to take into consideration when scheduling new events, including soccer, football, and other camps. Discussion followed. Dancer said he has already met with Alma College regarding facilities and other opportunities there. He added that work has already started on a Facebook page which will be linked with the GoGratiot community calendar and they are hoping to get regular activities started after Memorial Day.

*Update on Outstanding Grant Applications*

Dancer provided a brief update on pending grant applications for playground safety certification for the Public Works Superintendent, as well as security cameras for several of the parks. He said he is also working with Public Services for alternate options in case Alma does not receive the grant for security cameras. He added there is also a grant opportunity through Gratiot County, but any funds awarded must be applied to new assets, rather than improvements to existing assets.

Discussion followed regarding the former community pool area south of the Library and potential uses for the space there, such as pickleball courts. Dancer noted there had previously been talk of converting the tennis courts at Holiday Park to pickleball courts. Additional discussion followed regarding the parking lot and drive at Conservation Park and which parks will be receiving security cameras.

Whitmore said there may be an opportunity for a grant through the Community Foundation.

Dancer indicated the May 27th regular meeting will be cancelled as municipal offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day that day. The next regular meeting will be June 24, 2024.

*Other Business*

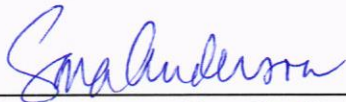
No additional business was presented, and no public comments were offered.

**Motion by Wright, seconded by Whitmore, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried.**

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

**No: none.**

**Absent: Alonzi.**



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Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: June 24, 2024