

**City of Alma Parks Committee
Special Meeting
July 25, 2022**

A special meeting the City of Alma Parks Committee was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Alma Municipal Building on July 25, 2022. A quorum of the Committee was not present.

Present: Roger Allman, Bill Gorton, Aeric Ripley, and Andi Whitmore.
Absent: Kim Alonzi, Jamie Jerome, Blaine Lafler, and Ty Warczinsky.

Ripley noted member Samantha Sullins-Suhadja had moved out of the city, and the now-vacant seat would need to be filled.

Ripley provided an update on the restroom rehabilitation project. Wright Park is currently useable and has an occupancy permit, but flashing is still needed. Conservation Park is waiting on flashing and two toilets. Riverside Park plan was supposed to include removing part of the separating wall and floor, but it had been decided that those would be replaced due to their deteriorated condition. The added cost is approximately \$4,000, and there will be a change order. The steel roof was being added on that day, and the goal is to have completion prior to the DALMAC ride in late August. Ripley said he wants to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at each individual park as it is completed.

Ripley continued the update. David DeGraaf and a group of others will be installing a butterfly habitat in Conservation Park. Wright Park has some electrical issues they are trying to resolve before the All-Class Reunion scheduled there. He believes the entire project is in the home stretch.

Ripley noted the next project will be renewing the Parks Master Plan. He believes the project can be accomplished by staff and the Committee. The group will need to review rules and focus on sections that are required for grant applications. It will be necessary to reach out to other groups for regional planning. The first item of focus is inventory of assets, with discussions about future connections of rail paths. Ripley is hoping to complete the plan in January.

Brief discussion followed about projects in the prior master plan that had been accomplished.

Whitmore asked about the grant available through the county millage. Ripley said it would be maximum \$80,000, and grant requests must be for new projects.

Discussion followed about connecting rail trails.

Gorton suggested a splash pad. Whitmore said she had done some research when they were planning changes to Wright Park, and found it to be cost prohibitive, as well as difficult to fund after the initial installation. Discussion followed. Ripley noted the rail trails had been invaluable during the covid pandemic, and suggested improvements would be a good project. He also mentioned state PASSPORT grants.

Allman said there had been discussion about taking over maintenance of the city's portion of the Fred Meijer trail, which may bring additional funding options.

Ripley asked members to review the information provided and give some thought to projects.

Discussion followed about tennis courts and pickleball courts. Members reviewed which parks are included in the plan.

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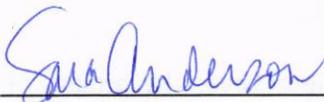
Andi Whitmore provided an update on the progress of the Dream Park project at Wright Park. She mentioned the following items still needing completion: donor plaques, bike rack, trash cans, disk swing, and replacement of an item that was ripped out a year ago. She also said vandals had damaged the pour in place flooring and invalidated the warranty. The archway using parapets from the former playground also needs to be completed.

Allman asked about security cameras. Whitmore said St. Mary's was looking at cameras which would cover the park, as they have also suffered damage from vandalism.

Whitmore said the donor plaque is an important piece, as well as closing out various grants. Discussion followed about a request to add an adult sized transfer swing. Ripley suggested working together to create a punch list for projects needing completion.

Discussion followed about regular meeting dates. The group agreed to move meetings to the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Sara Anderson
Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: August 22, 2022