

A special meeting the City of Alma Parks Committee was held in the Alma Municipal Building on August 22, 2022. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Present: Roger Allman, Bill Gorton, Blaine Lafler, Aeric Ripley, and Andi Whitmore.

Absent: Kim Alonzi, Jamie Jerome, and Ty Warczynsky.

Others present: David Ringle and Curtis Dancer.

Ripley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Motion by Allman, seconded by Whitmore, to approve minutes of the July 25, 2022, meeting, as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

Ripley said a link to the Parks master plan had been included in the meeting agenda, and he wanted to get things rolling on the new plan starting with a site visit to each of the parks. Ripley said Alma Transit would provide transportation for the visit. The group discussed possible dates and determined August 31st at 6 p.m. would work for the most members.

Ripley then reviewed requirements for projects that could be submitted for potential funds from the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Millage grant, noting the project must be a new asset and not maintenance of an existing project. The group offered ideas including converting tennis courts to pickleball courts, adding shade structures, and converting the old sand volleyball court at the Library to a basketball court. Discussion followed regarding whether taking out an old asset and replacing it with a new asset would meet qualifications for the grant.

Ripley told the group he had received information about possible funding for a "fitness" park. Discussion followed. Members expressed fears of additional vandalism. Allman asked if surveillance could be considered as a project for the Gratiot County millage grant. Additional discussion followed about security cameras, requirements for retaining footage, and the continued threat of vandalism to any new project. Members asked Ripley to seek additional information about the fitness park funding.

Whitmore noted she would not be available for the September 26th meeting.

Ripley told members he would follow up with an email regarding the proposed August 31st parks visit.

Allman asked if Scotland Yard Park could be used for overflow parking during the Alma Alive event. Brief discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval