

**Meeting Minutes
Altoona Parks Board
City Hall Council Chambers
September 27, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Board President Chris Pudenz at 6:33 PM

I – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chris Pudenz, Mike Wall, Matt Millard, Christine Adler, Alex Weigel, Lisa Moody-Tunks, Tim Stiles

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Resident Chad Ratashak, Parks Employee Chris Rhinehart and Councilperson Scott Duer

II – Quorum Declared

III – Minutes from August 23, 2023

Moved by Adler, Second by Moody-Tunks

Approved 7-0

IV – Visitors

Chad Ratashak, 1019 10th Ave PI SE, Altoona, addressed the board on two topics. He first asked about the potential for a Bike Bus program in Altoona. He explained this is when kids ride their bicycles to school in an organized, supervised larger group. Ratashak acknowledged that the schools would most likely be the ones to organize this. His second suggestion was an encouragement to the city to enlist the volunteer services of the community to assist in maintenance and repairs of trails.

V – New Business

Pudenz brought up a continued concern about vandalism in parks. Rhinehart said that he believed the vandals have been caught and no additional vandalism has been reported.

Adler suggested that perhaps a trail to connect Altoona and Bondurant could follow Little Four Mile Creek.

VI – Priority List Discussion

The list of projects as prioritized by the Board members and compiled by Tim Van Wyk was presented to the Board. Stiles asked if the Board's role in the planning was complete and Duer agreed and added that he felt this was a beneficial process. The prioritized list was as follows:

1. Develop a complete adaptive and/or inclusive play area somewhere in the city
2. Install a sensory wall or other adaptive and inclusive features at existing parks
3. Upgrade the amphitheater stage venue at Haines Park
4. Complete the Phase 4 improvements at Sam Wise Park
5. Pave the north parking lot at Spring Creek Park
6. (tie) Improve trails and traffic crossing at Spring Creek Park, trail crossing of Skinner Pkwy

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- Complete a connector trail between Bondurant and Altoona
8. Upgrade adult softball fields at Lions Park
 9. Install permanent restrooms at SW corner of Spring Creek Park
 10. Complete trail connection between Eagle Ridge and Twin Creek/Oak Hill parks
 11. (tie) Develop a second set of sand volleyball courts in the city
Install playground equipment at Sam Wise Park
 13. Install lighting on trails (new and existing)

The top 5 or so items on the list were discussed in some additional detail.

Duer gave thanks to the Board, and he mentioned that the very highest priority items (inclusive playground and other adaptive and inclusive features) would be given strong consideration.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the conditions of Lions Park. Duer noted that ultimately the Adult Softball group has been responsible for maintenance and upkeep over the years. He also noted that the general environment at the fields has not been family friendly and that the park has presented challenges to staff and council over the years.

VI – Consent Agenda

None

VII – Park Updates

- New walkway is completed behind the Townsend community center.
- Townsend stormwater project: Working on final grading, finishing up trails, preparing to seed turf and plant trees.
- Sam Wise Phase 3 is progressing nicely.
- Haines Splash Pad: Bid opening was Tuesday, Sept 26. The project will be awarded at the next Council meeting and the contractor will start work this fall.
- Spring Creek Park Boat Ramp and Parking Lot: Progressing. Contractor is having a bit of difficulty.

VIII – Next Parks Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct 25 at City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 PM

Moved by Wall, Second by Moody-Tunks

Approved 7-0

Meeting adjourned by Pudenz at 7:33 PM

There was no recording of the meeting.

Submitted by Tim Stiles, Board Secretary