

A regular meeting of the City of Alma Parks Committee was held at the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Present: Roger Allman, Josh Higbie, Jamie Jerome, Blaine Lafler, Rachel Molands, and Luke Wright.

Absent: Andi Whitmore.

Also present: Caleb Ahern, Curtis Dancer, David Ringle, and Aeris Ripley.

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Allman, seconded by Wright, to approve minutes of the October 27, 2025, meeting, as presented.

Motion carried with all present voting aye.

2025 Summer Parks Programming Recap

Dancer shared a year-end report prepared by Parks & Rec Programming Coordinator Morgan Most. He noted a record number of event attendees, and he spoke about new events added in 2025, including softball, volleyball, and summer camps.

At a question from Committee Member Allman regarding status of the Coordinator position, Dancer indicated the program is currently funded through September of 2026.

New Program Ideas for the 2026 Calendar

Dancer told the Committee he has posted job openings seeking an intern and summer camp counselors for the 2026 summer season. New events are being considered, including an Arbor Day celebration and possibly kickball. Dancer said they hope to feature the new downtown pocket park next to the theater for some new events, such as live music or an outdoor art gallery. Discussion followed regarding the pocket park. Allman suggested adding benches to the park. Dancer said the summer season would be closed out with the return of the cemetery historical tour in late September.

Update on Park Capital Improvements in the Parks During 2025

Dancer spoke about the DNR grant received for updates in Riverside Park, saying that after those improvements are completed, almost all of the items in the current master plan will have been addressed. He said the County has not yet decided on the grant application for a new pavilion in Holiday Park, and the grant application for Euclid Ballfield improvements was not successful, but he is working with the Little League group to explore options.

FY 2027 Budget Goals

Dancer told the group that a proposed budget for FY 2027 must be submitted to City Commission in April and asked for suggestions for capital improvement projects. The group discussed improvements made in 2025 and identified the following items for consideration in FY 2027:

- New or improved signage for all parks
- Improvements to the drive and parking lot at Riverside Park
- Repair/tuck-pointing of the Wright Park sign
- Improvements to the Euclid Ballfield parking lot

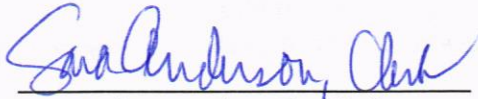
City Manager Aeris Ripley suggested a DNR Passport grant may be applicable for some of the improvements.

Caleb Ahern, on behalf of Alma Little League, asked the group about options for using the ballfield at Holiday Park. Discussion followed regarding digging restrictions in the area. Public Services Director David Ringle recommended the group explore other location options. Ahern said they are planning to convert one of the baseball fields at Washington Field to a softball field to open up opportunities. Ripley suggested the Republic field and brief discussion followed, with Ripley and Ahern agreeing to reach out to PAL regarding use of that field.

Other Business

The group agreed to continue with quarterly meetings and also agreed to consider additional meetings when preparation begins for updating the Master Plan.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Molands, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried with all present voting aye.



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: July 27, 2026