



Alma Parks Committee

Agenda

Park Meeting – July 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Alma Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2025 and April 27, 2026.
 - a. Copy of the Draft Minutes from the January 26, 2026 meeting
 - b. Copy of the Draft Minutes from the April 27, 2026 meeting
2. Update on the 2026 summer programs and upcoming events through September.
 - a. Tuesday Evenings in the Park
 - b. Summer Parks Camp Program
 - c. Sports Leagues/Tournaments
 - d. August/September Calendar
 - e. Other Activities
3. Discussion on the future of programming and the possibility of creating a Friends of the Parks group to help with fundraising.
4. Update on the Splash Pad in Wright Park and agreement with the Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Board.
5. Update on Riverside Park DNR Grant status and next steps.
6. Review of capital projects completed/scheduled for this summer.
7. Discussion on the 2028-2032 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

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

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

Present: Roger Allman, Josh Higbie, and Blaine Lafler.

Absent: Jamie Jerome, Rachel Molands, Andi Whitmore, and Luke Wright.

Also present: Curtis Dancer, Sara Krebbs, and Morgan Most.

Alma Finance Director Curtis Dancer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Dancer noted a quorum of the Committee was not present and suggested the group could continue with an unofficial meeting and review the items on the proposed agenda.

The group discussed plans for summer camp for the upcoming parks season, as well as other events planned throughout the summer. Dancer provided an update on the County Parks and Recreation proposal for a splash pad to be possibly located in Alma, and discussion followed. Dancer also told the group that the City is not in a position to consider funding parks and rec programs after the grant runs out at the end of September. The group discussed the grant and what other options might be available for programming, as well as other improvements for the parks.

Dancer reminded the group that the next regularly scheduled meeting is the fourth Monday in July.

Higbie offered a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m., which was seconded by Lafler. The motion passed with all three members present voting in favor.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval