

PARK BOARD ROUNDTABLE MEETING / PUBLIC FORUM
January 30, 2009

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a public roundtable meeting and public forum at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 2009 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Mike Lefor, John Gaffaney, Carol Herauf, Kelly Cooper and Scott Kovash. Also present were Director James Kramer, Park Operations Manager Scott Mack, Facility Operations Manager Bob Faulhaber, Recreation/Facilities Manager Kevin Klipfel, Attorney Mary Nordsvan, and Leah Hoenke, Clerk.

2008 Financial Report

Financials (Attachment #1) - Director James Kramer reviewed the year end financials and said that our fund balance is just under 1.2 million dollars. He said that 2008 was a pretty good year and that we are back to a comfortable level. President Mike Lefor said that year end adjustments will be reflected in January's report.

Budget Booklet (Attachment #2) - Director Kramer stated that this is for informational purposes.

TMI Payment (Attachment #3) - Director Kramer reviewed projects through TMI that they did over a three year period including the tennis addition. These projects were done after their initial donation when the community center was built. Director Kramer said that the last page is a letter describing the agreement regarding the \$39,773 payable to TMI in four equal payments ending April 2011. Director Kramer stated that his recommendation is to pay the \$39,733 and pay off early. Commissioner Kelly Cooper made a motion to pay TMI the amount due in full. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Carol Herauf. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

Park/Golf Equipment Bid Review (Attachment #4) - Director James Kramer explained that the earlier approval at January 12, 2009 meeting will need to be rescinded due to an error we found on a piece of equipment that should not have been included in the bid package. He said that after reviewing the bids we had a savings of \$12,000 which changes the low bid vendor. Attorney Mary Nordsvan recommended that we rescind the last motion and award a new bid package. Commissioner John Gaffaney made a motion to rescind the previous bid award on the park/golf equipment packages and to review the numbers again to determine the lowest best bid. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Scott Kovash. Upon roll call vote, vote was: Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

ESG Audit Financing Plan (Attachment #5) - Director James Kramer stated that we have one change order request to address in the amount of \$24,060.00 for work completed of which he recommends approval. Commissioner Carol Herauf made a motion to approve the ESG Contingency Change Request in the amount of \$24,060.00. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Scott Kovash. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried. Director Kramer also reviewed the repayment schedule. He said starting February 2009 we will begin making monthly payments and then ESG will begin showing proof of savings.

Pool Drain Update

Outdoor (Attachment #6) - Director James Kramer reviewed an estimate of \$25,000 from Associated Pool Builders on the cost of renovating the outdoor pool to be in compliance with the Virginia Graham Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act. Director Kramer explained that because the outdoor pool is not open the pool drains must be compliant before opening. The outdoor wading pool also does not meet code any longer and some of the facility is not ADA compliant. He believes it will cost a minimum of \$52,500 just to open the facility. Director Kramer said that he is not looking for action on the outdoor pool, but will leave on the agenda in order to come up with a game plan.

Indoor (Attachment #7) - Director Kramer also reviewed an estimate from Associated Supply Company of \$16,767 plus labor and electrical for the indoor pools at the West River Community Center. He said that we have more time to complete the indoor pools because they are open and usable. Commissioner John Gaffaney made a motion to approve the indoor pool renovation to be in

compliant with the VGB Pool & Spa Safety Act. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Kelly Cooper. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

TIMETABLE AGENDA - 8:30 A.M. - DOG PARK PUBLIC FORUM

President Mike Lefor opened the third and final public forum on the proposed dog park at All Seasons Park. Director Kramer handed out a new layout that shows moving the existing basketball court to a different area of the park. He also stated that currently the public access to the park is to go through the neighborhood, so he has been in contact with the City and they are willing to explore changing the access to the west side of park, which is the street between the Western Cooperative Credit Union and Applied Medical. Tara Couch of Oreo Animal Rescue was present at the forum and said that she believes after research that the dog park will be a positive in the community. Dr. Kim Brummond from West Dakota Veterinary spoke and said she is here to speak as a veterinarian and animal lover and said that moving the basketball court in order to keep at the park is a great idea. She provided handouts from the American Kennel Club regarding dog parks and how they benefit the community. Nikki, a volunteer at Oreo Animal Rescue spoke and said that she has been in contact with other Park District's in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Bowman who all have dog parks and said that they have few problems in their parks. Nina Kadrmas, resident of Dickinson spoke in favor of the dog park. She said that noise from the dog park will not be an issue, because dogs usually bark when they are lonely and isolated in back yards. She said when dogs are playing with other dogs and with their owners that they do not bark. Howard Gordon spoke in favor of the park. He said that dog park make for a better community. Jennifer Kesler is a supporter and is familiar with dog parks in other communities. Jessica Wojan, a supporter of the dog park gave reasons why she believes we should have a dog park. Barb Truchan, resident at 1625 1st Ave E said she lives in the neighborhood and had questions regarding the hours of the park. Director James Kramer said that the hours will be sunup to sundown and that we are not planning on putting in any lights. She also had other concerns regarding the disposal of dog feces and interaction with children at the park. She said she is in favor of a dog park, but believes All Seasons Park is not a good location. Lisa Fichter, a supporter works at West Dakota Vet and said she gets many calls from dog owners who do not have a place to take their dogs to run. Alyssa, owner of 11 dogs who fosters and rescues dogs said that dog parks make a big difference for dogs when they have places to run. Susanne Russ, dog owner for 15 years said that every dog park she's been to has been quiet and hasn't been to a dog park that had a feces problem. She also brought letters of support and gave to the Board. Jennifer Kuntz, resident at 1608 1st Ave E lives in the neighborhood and living room overlooks the park. She's stay at home mom and uses the park everyday. She's in favor of the dog park, but is concerned with children and entrance and would ask that the City put up signs to protect the children. Jolene, supporter of the park said that interaction with dog owners and other children is minimal because dog owners are there with their dogs and are responsible. Joyce Scott, resident in the neighborhood cares for a developmentally handicapped adult and is concerned for her safety. She believes the dog park should be located out of City limits. Evelyn Bjorness, resident at 609 2nd Ave E is not in favor of the dog park in the neighborhood. Two other individuals who were present provided signatures of supporters who were not able to attend the meeting. Terry Roller, resident in the neighborhood said that the people who are supporters of the park do not have to live in the neighborhood and they don't have to live with it. She said there is already a problem with dogs barking in the neighborhood and believes a dog park will only make it worse. Melissa Johnson, manager of the Comfort Inn said she often has requests from her guests for a place to take their dogs. Wayne Kudrna asked who is legally responsible if someone gets bit at the park. Director James Kramer said that it is no different than any other of our parks in Dickinson. President Mike Lefor said that we are not planning on making a decision today. He thanked everyone who attended and said that the Board will take both sides of the issue into consideration before making a decision. President Lefor closed the Public Forum at 9:40 a.m.

Skate Park Consultant/Bid (Attachment #9) - Director James Kramer reviewed an engineering estimate of the skate park from Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson and American Ramp Company. He said there is definitely an advantage to having a local company to work with. Director Kramer said the project is pretty straightforward due to the project being 90% concrete work and there shouldn't be a need for contingency funds. Commissioner Scott Kovash made a motion to approve the engineering plan from Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Carol Herauf. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

HRGC Restaurant Agreement (Attachment #9) - Director James Kramer reviewed the restaurant agreement at Heart River Golf Course and the 19th Hole. He said the previous owners of the 19th Hole have sold the restaurant to Barry and Annette Donnan. Commissioner John Gaffaney made a motion to approve the restaurant lease agreement at Heart River Golf Course contingent upon the sale of the 19th Hole to the Donnan's. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Kelly Cooper. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

2009 Projects / Financing Plan (Attachment #10) - Director James Kramer reviewed the statement of proposed projects that total \$500,000 for projects at Heart River Golf Course, East Side Complex tennis court renovation, skate park and contingency/miscellaneous. President Mike Lefor recommended having the Budget Committee meet to review and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

2009 Matching Grant Program - Director Kramer explained that we used to have a matching grant program with other organizations, but have not used in the last 4-5 years. He said we have a request from the Dolphins Swim Team for help with the costs of an elevated press box in the lap pool for use during their swim meets. Director Kramer said that we have other priorities that need to be addressed before we dedicate any money to this project. He would like to discuss if we want to keep this grant program. Commissioner Carol Herauf said that the swim team's request is a reasonable one and inquired as to how we handle request that we don't anticipate. President Mike Lefor stated that the Capital Betterment fund most likely is not enough to handle all of the requests. Director Kramer said that he recommends that the Budget Committee look into this as well.

Director Evaluations - President Mike Lefor handed out the Director's evaluation to the commissioners and asked that they complete and return to him by February 15, 2009.

WRCC Game Room Renovation - Director Kramer stated that he has a request from Natasha Ash, owner of Healthy Results for additional office space at the community center. Discussions with her have indicated the Community Room #3 which was used as a game room would be a good place for more offices. He said he will provide more information at another meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION - Director Kramer said that Pro Shop Supervisor Mickey Jordan has put in his resignation and will be leaving at the end of February. He said that because this position was filled less than a year ago, we will go back and look at other applicants and move forward very quickly.

There being no further business to come before the Board Commissioner Carol Herauf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Scott Kovash. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

Clerk

APPROVED BY:

President