

PARK BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
September 8, 2011

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a special meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners John Gaffaney, Scott Kovash, Kelly Cooper and Carol Herauf. Others present were Director James Kramer, Attorney Mary Nordsven and Clerk Leah Hoenke. President Mike Lefor was absent.

2012 Preliminary Budget Review - Director James Kramer reviewed the budget. He said the biggest change that was made was to add additional positions within the Park District. He said we added a full-time Administrative Manager position who will oversee human resources, insurance, and finance as well as adding a Golf Maintenance position that has been much needed with only one full time maintenance position. He also said we still have two other positions that are still open, but were already in the budget. Director Kramer reviewed the Notice of Preliminary Budget. He said the public hearing is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 29 at the West River Community Center. Director Kramer reviewed each of the funds. General Fund total to be levied is \$730,000; Special Events \$273,000 no levied fund; WRCC \$1,481,750 no levied fund, HRGC \$736,500 no levied fund; Patterson Lake \$122,000 no levied fund; Park Special Levies: Park Facility \$200,000 levied fund; Social Security \$61,000 levied fund; Special Assessment \$50,000 levied fund; Retirement \$193,000 levied fund. Total tax levy is \$1,234,000 which is an increase of 8 percent over last year. Director Kramer reviewed the Mill Rate Comparison and said the same mills are generating more money. He explained that with the new growth in Dickinson the average taxpayer will not see an increase in their taxes and could potentially see a decrease. Commissioner Kelly Cooper said he believes it is appropriate to add more positions. Director Kramer said we have talked about reviewing fees every year, but don't see a need to increase fees this year due to the facility areas that are doing very well such as Patterson Lake and Heart River Golf Course. Commissioner John Gaffaney asked if the staff increases are still in the budget as planned. Director Kramer said they were. He also said he would like to have a Park Board Workshop where we can talk about master planning, budget and give an overview of some of the planning the budget committee has been talking about. Commissioner Scott Kovash made a motion to approve the Preliminary Budget. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Kelly Cooper. Roll Call vote was: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Absent: 1. Motion carried.

Koch Development Review - Director Kramer reviewed the Koch's Meadow Hills Master Plan. He said in our previous discussions we talked about taking the cash in lieu of land for the first phase. He said if we take the cash we would get \$100 per unit with the developer paying us \$6,600.00. This leaves us 5.5 acres of land left and stated that 5 acres is still a substantial amount of land. 5 acres compares to the land at Eagles Park. The Board would like something in the northeast corner of this property. Discussion followed. Commissioner Scott Kovash reviewed some of the things the Planning and Zoning Board is working on. He said the problem with taking cash is that the acres are being sold at a much higher price than what the developer has to pay us for. The zoning board would like to see the Park Board go off of acres instead of lots. He said we should contact the City Auditor to find out the average acre price. Commissioner Kovash said it makes sense for the price to be at fair market value. Discussion followed. Commissioner Kovash said the developers will have to meet a lot stricter standards than has been allowed in the past. He said the cash needs to be equal to the value of the land. Director Kramer asked the Board if the consensus from the Board is to move forward with the original motion that Koch Subdivision pay us \$6,600 cash for land. The Board agreed that they will stand by their original motion.

There being no further business to come before the Board Commissioner Scott Kovash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Motion duly seconded by Commissioner Carol Herauf. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President