

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RECREATION
JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2017**

Members Present: Dave Baumgart, Bill Borth, Sally Calvin, Matt Dawson, Allen Huselid, Carol Laumer, Linda Mathiasen, Audrey Nelsen, Rachel Skretvedt, Darin Strand

Staff Present: Steve Brisendine, Ryan Harper, Tom Moore, Tammy Rudningen, Becky Sorenson, Pam Vruwink, Jodi Wambeke

Guest Present: Josh Potts

Chairman Darin Strand opened the meeting by reminding everyone of the need for a vice chair as Rachel Skretvedt had declined to serve another year in that position. Ross Magnuson has volunteered to act as vice chair. Carol Laumer made a motion to recommend Ross Magnuson serve as vice chair. The motion was seconded and carried.

Darin mentioned the two openings on the Joint Powers Board. He introduced Josh Potts who was sitting in on the meeting as a potential new member. Josh lives out by Long Lake and if he is to be considered for membership he would be a school district appointee. Steve has talked to the mayor about appointing a city rep in the near future.

The next item discussed was the job description for the Joint Powers Board members which was handed out to the members. Some revisions and changes had been made to clarify the description. Steve also stated that there were training opportunities for board members and he would email upcoming sessions to each board member. It was noted that this is an advisory committee but that their advice should be given strong consideration by the policy makers. Darin also mentioned that in 2014 the board and staff went through a formal visioning process and that over the course of the next year we will be revisiting the strategic plan to provide more guidance for this board and staff.

Rice Park Update: The Council will be having work sessions prior to each Council meeting starting in February. It is hoped this will open discussion about the priorities for the council and this will allow staff to understand the direction they are to take based on council discussions. The first work session will be February 6. Steve plans to bring up items that did not get attention in 2016. The Rice Park bid came in \$50,000 over, but that project is still in the budget if the council decides to move forward with re-bidding this work. Steve has worked with SRF and created an alternate list of changes: removing landscaping, irrigation and reducing concrete work from the bid and adding them as alternates should allow the project to come in at budget. The question is whether the City Council will allow us this project to be re-bid.

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Audrey Nelsen stated that people she has talked to want the City to complete Rice Park and to do it right. The board was in agreement that they would like to see the Rice Park project get rebid with the work to be done this summer. Darin stated that he planned to attend the council work session in case input from the board is requested.

Linda Mathiasen asked for clarification regarding the City's control over expenses when the School doesn't seem to have the same control. Steve Brisendine responded that the City Council has control over capital improvements and requests that they be brought back for approval before the projects move forward. Typically the council and school board do not micro-manage adopted operational budgets but for capital projects there is another check and balance that takes place.

Steve stated that he had mis-read the Council regarding their stance on Rice Park. He would have had Joint Powers Board members attend the meeting to give their input to the City Council which may have changed the outcome. Rachel Skretvedt said she felt let down by the Council changing their mind after all the work everyone put into planning the Rice Park project. Audrey Nelsen stated she felt the Rice Park project did not fail because of the \$50,000 over budget amount.

Matt Dawson asked that Steve find out at the work session what the Council's main concerns are in regards to needed maintenance and other expenses. Audrey Nelsen said the City Council approved the capital improvement plan but did not authorize staff to do this project.

Allen Huselid asked if it would be helpful if Joint Powers Board came up with recommendations to bring to the work session. Linda Mathiasen said she thought it would be a good idea to come up with a proposal. Darin Strand said it would be helpful to get a clear picture from the City. If this group were to come up with a "top 3" recommendations such as: 1) Get Rice Park done; 2) Find the \$250,000 match to get the \$600,000 legacy grant; 3) If Rice project isn't done, where does that money get targeted? It should go into the park system vs some other city project. Audrey Nelsen stated that what we bring forward will be looked at but, since the Council has new members, she can't speak for the City Council and what they might do regarding the Rice Park project.

Bill Borth feels the lines are being blurred between policy and priorities. Rachel Skretvedt said we are spending too much time on maintenance; that should be between the City and maintenance staff. This board can support the recommendations of staff or not support them but that is an operational issue and should be driven more by staff.

Audrey Nelsen said that Rice Park was decided upon being the first project to complete in the park plan and feels and that it should be funded. Rachel Skretvedt stated that we need to keep the neighborhood parks in mind also. Many are outdated or had unsafe equipment removed.

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Other projects that were in the 2016 CIP include; Civic Center cedar shake replacement. This project has been bid before and the bid exceeded the amount in the budget. The last quote was for \$220,000 with only one firm submitting a bid. Staff has rebid the project and hope some competition will allow the bids to be reduced. If not staff have identified funds from the expired local option sales tax that could go towards completion of this project.

2017 CIP projects include the Miller Park tennis court renovation, Swansson Field concession/restroom facility and a Civic Center restroom retrofit. The Swansson Field project will be submitted for council approval at the February 6 meeting due to urgencies in meeting deadlines around the 2017 VFW State Trny that Willmar is hosting.

Darin Strand talked about returning to the meeting format we had in the past, namely every other month, the Board broke up into two meeting groups – Programming and Parks/Facilities in addition to the Executive Committee (consisting of chair, vice chair, Steve, City Council rep and School Board rep) also meeting. He requested board members let Steve know if they had a preference to serve on the Programming or Parks/Facilities committee. Steve mentioned that we do need to have input into both parks/facilities and programming.

Jodi Wambeke is looking for input regarding our registration process (on-line). We are looking at the possibility of switching and are looking for comments regarding ease or difficulty of our existing system or what features are desired. Jodi will be sending out a short survey for the board to complete. This input would be greatly appreciated by staff.

Movies in the Park will be at the Civic Center on February 11 with the movie “Finding Dori” being shown at 6:00.

Dave Baumgart announced the waffle breakfast at Roosevelt tomorrow as a fundraiser for the Baseball Boosters and encouraged everyone to attend.

Linda Mathiasen asked everyone to contact our legislator regarding the proposal of adding sales tax on sports tickets and concessions.

Tammy Rudningen handed out a flyer for prospective instructors for the summer brochure. Rachel Skretvedt suggested that we look at other Community Education websites and catalogs to see what they are offering.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 24.