

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**

**October 21, 2020**

Members Present: Jim Anderson, Thomas Gilbertson, Rand Middleton, Chloe Quinn

Staff Present: Rob Baumgarn, Rachel Centellas, Britta Diem, Curt Hein, Alex Sobieck & Ryan Scheffler

Guests: Sarah Swedburg and Kristin from Mainstreet Art

Chairman Jim Anderson called the meeting to order.

Jim asked if there were any public comments, but there were no public in attendance.

Everyone introduced themselves so that the guests would know who everyone was.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Rand made a motion, Tom seconded. Jim asked all in favor and all said I.

Sarah Swedburg, City Planner introduced the Mural discussion and introduced Kristin from Mainstreet Art. Sarah explained that Kristin has approached her about putting murals that she already has done around at City locations. Kristin explained that she had done these murals with people of Presbyterian Family Foundation (PFF) in mind. It highlights different people from their organization in the community. She explained how she would like to see the murals around the city so people with disabilities can see others like them in the community.

Discussion was had about the murals and locations for them. It was brought up that the Baker Field location mural would cause quite the controversy. The mural had the Willmar Stingers mascot portrayed. Rand explained that it is a city facility, not only the Stingers play there. If this mural were to be put there it would need to be put up and down for the Stingers games. It wouldn't be up all year round like proposed. Kristin explained that she used the Stingers mascot because a lot of the people of PFF go to their games and love to interact with the mascot.

Tom made a motion to recommend the approval of these murals and it to be moved to the next level, Val seconded. Jim asked all in favor and all said I. Motion passed to go to the Public Works for approval.

Sarah brought up the park dedication fee. She explained that when a development is being put up they have an option to either donate 7% of area or land value for a residential client and 4% for a commercial. She said currently there is \$10,000 available in this fund for park improvements.

Val started to talk about the tobacco policy. There is a new draft available for everyone to look at that has been edited by the city attorney. She brings up that she would like to put up new signs at all city parks. The signs would be updated so that it includes all forms of tobacco use. There is funding available through a couple sponsors they found. POtentiall it could be \$18 a sign unless

the city were to be able to repurpose the signs they currently have, in which case it would be cheaper. Discussion was had about the tobacco policy and the signs. There was a motion to approve the new tobacco policy draft and to be sent to public works for approval by Tom and Rand seconded. Jim asked all in favor and all said I. Motion passed.

Rob moved on to talk about the Baker Field improvements. He was recently approached by the Willmar Stingers to put an area down by the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout that would be concreted for them to add a couple more seats. Rob said he researched what they were wanting to do and thought it would be a good improvement. The Stingers would pay for all materials and public works would help with the construction of the platform. There was pushback from a couple community members about this improvement and they had suggested these type of decisions should be brought to the board. So Rob wanted to be clear with the board about what was happening and asked if every park and rec improvement decision he made needed to be brought to the board. The board all agreed to let Rob handle the day-to-day decisions about improvements and to only involve them when it is needed.

Rob then moved on to talk about the Invest in Willmar projects. He started with the Swansson field project. He said that bids have been received for it and it is over budget about \$300,000. He said the subcommittee needs to decide on what cuts to make in order to move forward. Discussion was had about the different plan options and the time frame they are looking at.

Next he moved to the Robbins Island project. The paving was supposed to start this week, but with the snow he is not sure when that will get done now. The construction crew is aware that the Celebrate the Lights will need to start setting up soon and they are on a tight time frame. They are hoping to have it so the lights can be ready by Thanksgiving. Rob also added that the subcommittee is looking on other projects they could do with their leftover money.

The event center project subcommittee just met last week and made a decision that they would not include the locker rooms or a dome link to the project. They want to focus on the event center, the playground and the kitchen.

The rec fields are over budget. The subcommittee needs to prioritize what they really want to accomplish. They are uncertain on the bubble because of the operational cost it has. Rob discussed potential costs, but also potential revenue streams for the bubble.

The community center project is trying to decide on a location and is mostly looking at the JC Penny location in Uptown Willmar. They would combine City Hall with the Community Center. Discussion was had about how it would need to be able to accommodate people of all ages.

Jim asked for the staff updates.

Britta said that they have been busy with different programs starting at the Community Center. The Wood Shop has been growing in numbers and she has had quite a few facility rentals. She also added that the BikeShare program has been wrapped up for the season.

Alex said that her flag football finished last week and it went very well. She has had many meetings with different groups about upcoming programs. She is hoping to have the rinks flooded before Thanksgiving and only the Garfield warming house will be open. She is also looking into a skiing/snowboarding program for youth.

Ryan said that Adult Hockey is just starting and there are five teams. Softball just had their last game and it went very well. Volleyball should be starting mid-November and Basketball will start in December. He has been busy at the Arena with getting the ice and concessions ready.

Rachel said that she was working on the Lost Relics of Willmar and 4 have been found and 4 are still out there for people to find. She also is just about ready to launch the Fall/Winter 202 brochure.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom. All in favor, all said I.

Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned.