

**Members Present:** Jim Anderson, Julie Asmus, Rick Fagerlie, Tom Gilbertson, Abdi Hussein, Rand Middleton, Andy Ogdahl, Val Swanson

**Guests Present:** Mike Fagerlie, Steve Hoppe

**Staff Present:** Rob Baumgarn, Britta Diem, Curt Hein, Ryan Scheffler, Becky Sorenson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Anderson. He stated there was a slight change to the agenda and that Willmar Baseball – Signage would be moved up to number 4 on the agenda.

1. **Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made by Tom Gilbertson and seconded by Andy Ogdahl to approve the January minutes. Motion carried.
2. **Public Forum:** No one was present for the public forum.
3. **Introduction of Chloe Quinn to the Board:** Chloe was not present at the meeting as she was attending the Cardinal Girls hockey tournament game.
4. **Willmar Baseball – Signage at Swansson:** Mike Fagerlie and Steve Hoppe with the Baseball Booster Association presented a request from the BB Association to add additional signs on the first base fence of Swansson Blue and Green to enable the Association to sell more advertising. Currently they only have ads at entrance fence at Elsie (Orange). Rob stated that he had checked with the City and found that the proposed signs on the first baseline along Willmar Avenue is fine according to City ordinances. Val Swanson made a motion to approve the new signage proposal. Rand Middleton seconded. Rick Fagerlie asked if there would be a cost for a one year lease. Rob Baumgarn stated that there would be no cost this year. The one year lease is being recommended due to the future work at Swansson. Motion carried.
5. **Summer Ice RFP's:** Last year was the first year of summer ice on the new system. The utility cost amounted to \$8,000 per month. We had two groups wanting to use ice this coming summer. An RFP was created for June, July and August summer ice. The expectation is that our costs are covered: utilities and staffing, which would amount to \$31,000 for June, July and August. We received two proposals back. Staff recommends that we go with West Central Hockey. We have dealt with them in the past and they work with the hockey coaches from the High School. They would have a registration dead-line so they can determine if enough are signed up to warrant the summer ice program. They would let us know before we start flooding the rink if they are cancelling. This agreement would be for a one year term. Rand Middleton asked how many weeks the program would be. Rob Baumgarn stated it would be 12 weeks. He also reported that, in addition to Ridgewater graduation, we would be hosting Willmar High School graduation and would have ice by June 14. Hockey sessions would meet June and July with tournaments scheduled in August. Because of this, it would not make sense to remove the ice and flood again in two weeks. Tom Gilbertson made a motion to accept West Central Hockey for summer ice, Val Swanson seconded. Motion carried
6. **Invest in Willmar Update:** Rob stated that there are three meetings tonight with the subcommittee and the Architect and Construction Manager regarding the upcoming projects. At 4:00, LSE and Marcus – discussing the Rec Event Center and the preliminary drawing. 6:00 will be the Rec fields, turf field and the bubble, and discussing how to connect to the Arena. At 8:00 will be the Swansson field discussion. Rob stated he would be able to give more definitive details at the next Board meeting.

Rob stated that there are continued meetings regarding parking areas near the playground. We may be able to replace Hilltop and Open Shelter #1 if there is money left.

City Hall/Community Center – an architect has been chosen but this has not been finalized yet.

Robbins Island will be shut down starting in early August for road construction. The only access to the Island will be from the back side by Hedin Park.

7. **Four Season Shelter Update:** Rob stated he had been working with the DNR regarding the grant reimbursement. The City should be receiving a check for \$577,000 shortly with the remainder being paid to the City when the shelter is completed.

Curt Hein informed the Board of progress on the shelter. The interior should be done this month. The exterior will be done when frost is out. He passed around pictures he had taken of the shelter's progress. Work is starting on the roof and siding has been started. Rob stated that the next P & R Board meeting will be held at the Four Season Shelter.

8. **Local Ice Rinks Discussion:** Rand Middleton talked about the outdoor rinks, mainly Garfield. He proposed two topics to discuss or debate:
  - a. Considering the low number of ice users, is it worth the labor and machinery to create and maintain the rinks?
  - b. Can the outdoor ice rinks succeed without a warming house that is open daily and weekends that people can depend on?

Jim Anderson said he thinks it's up to youth hockey coaches, assistants, to promote. If there are larger numbers skating, more will come. He also feels that the warming house needs to be open more. Rand Middleton proposes being open every week day and each weekend till 8 or 9 pm, especially Saturdays. Staff will look into this.

9. **Coordinator's Reports:** Ryan Scheffler said he is working on summer offerings, getting space reserved. He stated we are trying to move away from using school facilities and move to using more City facilities. He said we had around 250 people attending the Movie on the Ice – Mighty Ducks 2. He informed the Board that the MN Vikings are coming to Willmar for a free camp June 23 from 5-7 and 9-11 the next day. We will start advertising in March.

Britta Diem mentioned that, at Movie on the Ice, participants got to vote on movies they wanted to see during Summer Movies in the Park. The winners are: Frozen 2, Jumanji, Toy Story 4 and Sonic. We will be adding Rice Park and Baker Diamond as movie sites this year in addition to Robbins Island.

She stated that there have been many Valentine's activities at the Community Center with love notes, making Valentine's cards and guessing how many conversation hearts were in the jar, to name a few.

Tax appointments are happening on Thursdays and going well.

Riley Tours came to the Center and talked about their upcoming tours.

Interview for the City Hall/Community Center architect has been done.

Another bike hub is being added, making a total of 11 hubs.

Britta is working on updating the pool handbooks and scheduling a lifeguard refresher course. She is also looking for sites to host the Community Center programs, rentals during the construction time for the new City Hall/Center.

Curt Hein, Public Works, stated he had a meeting on the dugouts with the College regarding adding knee walls and netting to protect players in the dugouts from hit balls.

As there was no further business, Tom Gilbertson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Ogdahl and passed.