

Members Present: Julie Asmus, Tom Gilbertson, Rand Middleton, Andy Ogdahl, Val Swanson

Guest Present: Chloe Quinn

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

The meeting was called to order by Rob Baumgarn in the absence of the chair and vice chair. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. **Approval of the Minutes:** As the minutes had not been sent out, Tom Gilbertson made a motion to table approval of the minutes. Val Swanson seconded the motion.
2. **Public Forum:** No one was present for the public forum.
3. **Architects for Invest in Willmar projects update:** Rob stated that the City Council has received the recommendations of WSN for Swansson and the other recreation/turf fields with LSE for the Recreation/Event Center. Marcus Construction is the Construction Manager at Risk. There will be a meeting on January 29 at 10 am at the Arena with LSE, Marcus and City staff to go over what the role is of the architect, construction manager at risk and City staff. After that they will meet with the Event Center Sub-Committee on February 19 to create a game plan on what the event center will look like. Julie Asmus mentioned a statement that came up at the Finance Committee last week. There will be issues with expansion of parking lots, roads and overlap between the Event Center and the fields. At this time, the Local Option Sales Tax money did not take any of those costs into account. The question arose at the Finance Committee meeting asking which pot of money would cover the cost of this.
An update on the Community Center/City Hall project - RFP's were due yesterday, we received 14 from Architectural firms and 10 for Construction Manager at Risk. Rob stated that Britta has been working on finding locations for the Community Center programs when construction starts.
4. **Shade Structures – Robbins island Playground:** The Willmar Foundation has an account for all the donations received for the Destination Playground. The Destination Playground Committee has been looking into improvements at the Playground. There are concerns regarding the areas of the playground where there is no shade. Three bids for shade structures were received and a decision was made to go with the lower bid from MN/Wisconsin Playground. Drawings of what the canopy would look like were passed around. The support poles will be placed outside the fence so it doesn't impact the rubber floor.

There is \$75,000 available for the project. \$65,000 will cover the cost of four shade structures and installation. The remaining \$10,000 will cover the cost of moving cameras and moving all the electrical for the playground from Guri to the four season shelter.

Another project at the playground is the water misters. They were turned off and not used at all last year. The water at the Island is hard and there was a white scale on the equipment. In order to solve this problem, we need to go with an RO system (reverse osmosis) and in order to go with the RO system, the water needs to be softened. A water softener will be installed in the four season shelter which will feed the RO system leading into the misters. The added benefit will be soft water to the whole shelter. We have received two donations from the committee— one for \$75,000 and another for \$15,000 which will cover the cost of the water softener, water filtration, more signage and beautification of the area and additional trash receptacles. Tom Gilbertson asked if there was a substantial sum left in the donation account. Rob stated that there is some dollars still available but don't know the exact amount.

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5. **Four Season Shelter Update:** Curt talked about the progress at the shelter. Sheetrock and taping is 100% done. Priming started yesterday with painting continuing into next week. The doors are being installed today, ductwork and tile the week of the 20th. The roof is about a week behind because three of the crew were sick; hoping to get started next week. As soon as the roof is done, they will start working on the siding. Interior should be done by the second week in February. It was decided to wait until this spring for the exterior work to be completed.

Rob stated that there are three things to consider in the future: Do we give a name to the four season shelter? Do we keep the rental fee the same? Should we have a winter rental rate?

6. **Playground Equipment:** As Justin DeLeeuw was unable to attend the meeting (due to plowing snow), his report will be moved to next month.
7. **Five Year Park Equipment Plan:** Rob stated that there is \$150,000 in this year's budget for playground equipment. There are grants available. If we spend \$100,000, we could get \$200,000 in equipment (which could update two parks). Installation costs for playground equipment ranges from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per unit. Rob handed out a map showing the parks that have had improvements over the past three years. In the Park Master Plan, the next big park needing improvement is Northside. Julie Asmus stated there have been complaints that Northside is being neglected. Rob stated that Northside is in the Capital budget if funding is available.

Rand Middleton asked about Garfield Park and what the City's responsibility is. Rob stated that Garfield is School property so the only area that the City takes care of is the ice rink and the ball field.

8. **Coordinator Reports:** Britta said she has been looking into possible locations to move the Community Center programming once work is started on the new building. The noon meal program has switched to McKales Catering and she has only heard good comments. Weight Watchers (WW) is now meeting at the Center. There was a health fair on Tuesday with the Carris dietician and Club Bethesda coordinator speaking. We have been awarded the Bronze Level Award for Bike Friendly community.

Ryan spoke about tennis and the winter session of wrestling going well. He is looking at new ideas for spring programming and has met with the Head Track coach about a program for Kindergarten thru grade 5. He has been working on developing a facility agreement for the Auditorium and our other facilities. Movies on Ice will be Feb. 8 – Mighty Ducks 2.

For the Board's information, Becky announced that she will be retiring and her last day will be April 30.

Board comments – Val Swanson said she is concerned about parking lots dipping into the funds we have for our projects. Julie Asmus stated she had attended open skating on Sunday and was impressed with the number of skaters. Rob said we have skate rangers on duty due to the large number of skaters. Rick Fagerlie asked about Lincoln Skate Rink saying he hasn't seen anyone using the rink and wonders if it is worthwhile having a rink there. Garfield is the most popular rink but doesn't have a good warming house. Rand Middleton said he thinks there need to be more open hours for the warming house (currently it's open Monday and Thursday from 5-8 and Saturday and Sunday from 1-6).

The next meeting will be February 19.

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