

**SPECIAL-PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
VIDEO CONFERENCE
AUGUST 10, 2020**

Video conference participants: Jim Anderson, Julie Asmus, Rick Fagerlie, Tom Gilbertson, Rand Middleton, Chloe Quinn, Val Swanson

Staff Present: Rob Baumgarn, Britta Diem

Guest: Dana Hlebichuk from Widseth
Mary Sawatzky and Rick Maursetter-Invest in Willmar-Swansson Fields

Chairman Jim Anderson called the meeting to order. Rob called for roll call.

Jim asked whether he should start with a motion or discussion. Rob said to start with the motion.

Jim asked if there was there a motion and second to recommend for the design and construction documents for the Invest in Willmar-Swansson Fields project to authorize the project to go out for bids. Val Swanson made a motion to approve, seconded by Rand Middleton.

Jim opened it open for discussion. Rand had a question about the infield turf. He asked about the difference of maintaining the grass infield vs putting in a turf infield.

Dana said that the grass infield would require mowing, seeding, fertilizer, drainage, area drains and drain tile. Turf maintenance would be a protection over home plate and pitcher's mound during warm-up and batting practice. He said he couldn't exactly speak to the amount of maintenance required for the artificial turf field, other than the grass.

Rick said there is a much quicker change over time. The field wouldn't need to be dragged or re-lined between games. With the grass the drainage it be significant enough to play in the rain. It would make the field more available than any other field the city has. He also said that any problem areas would be able to be fixed quite easily if or when they wear out. The areas of the grass that has worn out can just be replaced. He also said that there would be three colors of turf, white for the lines, green for the infield, and a rust color for the agriline surface. The artificial turf will go all the way to the foul line surfaces and to the backstop.

Rand asked what the projected cost would be for installing turf.

Rick responded with \$4.00 a square foot as the projected cost, with 30,000 square feet pictured in the presentation. Saying that it would roughly cost \$ 300,000.

Mary told Rand that his point was well taken and that Orange Field will be renamed Klemmetson Field if the project gets completed with good signage.

Mary asked if Rob had any comments about the turf.

**SPECIAL-PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
VIDEO CONFERENCE
AUGUST 10, 2020, PAGE 2**

Rob responded with how the batter's box can be velcroed in and taken out when not in use and same thing with the pitcher's mound. He included that more maintenance would include some infield grooming. The groomers would sweep around the rubber pellets weekly or monthly.

Mary included that the infield that they are thinking about cutting some square footage out of the turf that is pictured. Possibly by the concession stand. That there could be grass in those areas to make it less expensive.

Mary also asked if everyone present was included on the original presentation.

No one responded. Jim asked if anyone had a question about it.

Rand asked if there would be any alterations to green.

Dana responded that red and yellow are the base bid and will have new infield drainage, new infield agriline, new dugouts and a new scoreboard. The green is considered in an alternate bid.

Mary added that when they originally started the project they included all of the fields, but when the estimated budget came in they decided to cut back 2/3 of the softball diamonds and some other items on the wish list. They need to wait and see where the numbers come in and then go from there.

Tom asked if the new turf and drainage would put added stress on the storm water improvements on the rest of the city.

Dana responded that he did not have enough information to give an accurate answer, but that he doesn't believe it would take any more water than usual. Just that it would be able to drain the water faster than before. Dana said he would look into the question more to give an accurate answer and get back to Tom.

Jim asked if Val had a question.

Val asked what the procedure will be when the bids come in to see what they can add and deduct to the project. And will it need to come back to the Park and Rec board after the bids come in.

Dana said that after the bids come in then there will be a meeting with the subcommittee to prioritize what they add and deduct to stay within budget. And then there will be a recommendation to city council to start construction and approve the contracts.

Rob added that the recommendation will come from the subcommittee and then bring it through the process to get it to the council, so it wouldn't be surprising if we had to go to Park & Rec to recommend what they decide to get it to Public Works, Public Safety and then the council.

Val asked if they would most likely see this again.

Rob responded that they would most likely see it with the recommendations before it goes to council.

**SPECIAL-PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
VIDEO CONFERENCE
AUGUST 10, 2020, PAGE 3**

Jim asked if anyone else had any more questions.

Jim asks for a motion and a second to recommend this.

Jim calls a vote. He asks all in favor, say I. Val, Rand, Jim, Chloe and Tom say I. He asks for opposed. No opposed.

Jim announces motion passes.

Jim makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Tom. Jim asks for all in favor say I. All say I.

Motion carried.