

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

September 16, 2020

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

City Council Members Present: Julie Asmus

Staff Present: Rob Baumgarn, Rachel Centellas, Britta Diem, Alex Sobieck

Chairman Jim Anderson called the meeting to order.

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

Jim made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting, second by Chloe.

Jim asked all in favor, all said I. Motion carried.

Rob started discussion about the Robbins Island projects that have been going on. The works are still in progress. The water main projects are done and the curbs and gutters will be the next project to start.

Rob said that he met with Bolton & Menk and talked about how there was going to be money left from what was budgeted from the road projects. The subcommittee will start looking at ways they want to use this extra money at Robbins Island.

Julie asked if there could possibly be a permanent amphitheater with the extra dollars and discussion was had about that.

Rob said that the Swansson Field bid opening started today. Discussion was had about the bids and timing of starting the construction.

Rob then moved on to talk about the Event and Recreation Center Project. He showed the plans for the layout of the building and where everything would be located. There would be room for 8 pickleball courts, 2 tennis courts, basketball and volleyball. There would also be an entrance for a future curling addition.

Julie asked what the purpose of the meeting rooms in the Event and Recreation center was and discussion was had about that.

Rob proceeded to talk about the possibility of a dome.

Rand asked if it would be used for soccer. Rob said it could be used for soccer, softball, and other activities. Rob included that there would be operational costs, such as for utilities, part-time staff and officials.

Rob proceeded to talk about the locker rooms in the Civic center currently and that they could potentially be moved to make room for a sitting area and a play place for kids. New ones would need to be built in place of the existing.

There is also an option for an outdoor covered rink that would be used mostly for hockey, but could be multi-purpose.

Rob showed the master plan of what they hope to have for the future, but they know the plan will need to be shrunk down for now to what we can afford. And decisions need to be made at the subcommittees about what they want to get done.

Discussion was had about all the different options and how much each would cost.

Rob added that if the City was able to add these fields and indoor centers they would not have to rely on the schools for the use of their facilities. Currently the only indoor, dry floor space the parks and recreation has is the city auditorium and that just isn't suitable for all of the programs.

Discussion was had about the money and where it could all go and if there could be any money moved from each project to help contribute to others.

Jim started discussion on the coordinator updates.

Britta said that they started their outdoor concert series and it has been going very well. Next week the veteran's coffee socials start and they will also be doing a first day of fall event with Club Bethesda. She is also trying to see if she can start her SAIL program in-person again.

Alex said that they were in their third week of flag football and everything has been going well. She has five 5th and 6th grade Willmar teams, five 3rd and 4th Willmar teams and five 1st and 2nd Willmar teams who compete against New London, CMCS and MACCRAY. They had to move some fields to Swansson Fields in order to have more room and comply with social distancing guidelines. She is working on winter programs and is looking at wrestling, tennis, basketball and hockey.

Jim asked if there were any board announcements.

There were none.

Jim asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chloe made a motion and Rand seconded.

Jim asked all in favor. All said I.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.