

PARK BOARD MEETING
June 12, 2017

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 4:00 pm, Monday, June 12, 2017 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Kovash, Howard Sharpe, Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel. Also present Park Grounds Maintenance Manager Scott Mack, Facility Operations Manager Matt Mack, Facility Maintenance Manager X Dukart, Recreation/Facilities Manager Ryan Nelson, Marketing/HR Manager Amber Mathieson, Clerk Leah Hoenke, Attorney Randall Sickler. Commissioner KC Homiston was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTIONED BY: Howard Sharpe; SECONDED BY: Scott Karsky to approve May 8 and May 26 meeting minutes. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Howard Sharpe to approve May Claims in the amount of \$462,808.62. Roll call vote: Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Absent: 1. Motion carried.

SPECIAL APPEARANCE – Sarah Carlson – Dickinson Inclusive Playground (Attachment #1)

Sarah Carlson was present to talk about a partnership – she is representing a small group that has formed to help create an inclusive playground. She talked about her son Beckett and reviewed his abilities. She said she wants to talk about accessibility and inclusion at our local parks. Accessibility provides access, but not necessarily inclusion. Inclusion welcomes and involves everyone in a group. She stated that the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) misses the mark on inclusion. She said that Dickinson citizens boast about Optimist Park, she reviewed the adaptive equipment at the park and talked about the things that don't work. She also said the bathrooms are not adaptable. Her group sees the enormous potential of an inclusive playground, to have a low cost option for families to bring their children of all economic classes. Their Vision of natural inclusion, wants the playground to be usable for all forms of mobility, options for kids of all needs and all families will benefit. Sarah said that Mandan is the nearest location of an inclusive playground. She stated that her group has partnered with the Dickinson Area Community Foundation, and are confident they can secure approximately \$1.5 Million with resources they have. They are asking for additional members from the Park Board to join their team and are also asking for \$250,000 to put towards the project. Director James Kramer said he met with Sarah Carlson last week and said he came away from the meeting extremely impressed by the group and very excited about the future of this project. He said that he shared with her that the Park District had already identified an inclusive playground to be in our 3 year plan. Sarah stated that their original vision with their budget that they strongly considered having a smaller playground and then use the rest of funds to help resurface all the playgrounds in Dickinson. The group then reconsidered that a destination inclusive playground would be the better route to go, but with a goal in the future to resurface the other playgrounds. She said they connected with Cole Higlin of Mandan Park District and he has shared all of his resources; the Mandan project was approximately a \$1 Million dollar project. President Scott Kovash said we had also contacted Mandan Park District last year and he is very impressed by the Mandan park as well. He asked Sarah what location they would like to see the park located. Sarah responded that they have looked at the area at the bandshell location or the old Hagen football field, and Director Kramer also told her about the Gum Avenue location. She said they don't want to stall the project trying to get land and that they are open to discussions on location. President Kovash said this is something we could really use and he is in support of the project. Commissioner Tim Daniel said he agrees and that this is a great first step, they would rely on their group's expertise to get something established and from that point see how we can adjust other parks. Commissioner Scott Karsky said he likes the area of the bandshell if we could make that area work. He feels that area is not fully utilized. Director Kramer said that frisbee golf is part of that and most of that area is dedicated already. President Scott Kovash said the Hagen field is a good location. Sarah Carlson mentioned that they met with Dakota Fence and wants to make sure that the equipment is inclusive. Director James Kramer said Ground Maintenance Manager Scott Mack needs to be involved and is a certified playground specialist, he would like Scott to be on the committee along with himself. Sarah Carlson handed out a list of their team members, contributors and donors they have. Jordan Selinger, representative from Dickinson Area Community Foundation was present and wanted to confirm that the Park District would own and operate the property and facility would be built by dollars from Dickinson Area Community Foundation. Director James Kramer said the facility would be owned and operated by the Park District. President Scott Kovash thanked the group for attending and looks forward to working with them.

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance Manager Report (Scott Mack) – Manager Scott Mack reported on grounds spraying at the golf course, finishing up cleaning everything for Heart River Shootout. He said they will finish spraying this week and then get back at it this fall. He reported that his crew is working at the Veterans Memorial, digging out hole of old outdoor pool and filling it back in. He also said they finished at ballpark and that project is officially done. Manager Mack said they started mowing and trimming parks/facilities to get ready for 4th of July weekend. At Patterson Lake, work is being done at Crooked Crane Trail and primitive campground to put in a one way road. There is a new shipment of fire rings and picnic tables for primitive campground. Manager Mack also reported that Fairway 5 is going well. Director Kramer said they used it last weekend, closed it for repair and will continue to do that for a while.

Recreation/Facilities

Recreation/Facilities Manager Report (Ryan Nelson) – Manager Ryan Nelson reported on facilities, Heart River Retreat weekends are still booked, sporadic throughout week. West River Ice Center events, fire convention, roller derby, youth liberty camp, Bakken barbeque this Friday. Adult programs are getting close to their midpoint, youth programs are in full swing and t-ball started today. Manager Nelson also reported working on getting stuff ready for the American Legion Central Plains tournament in August.

Facilities

Facility Operations Manager (Matt Mack) – Manager Matt Mack reported, he updated the Board on WRCC member #'s in May, 6100 memberships, down 117 from last year this time. He said May, June, July are busier months for memberships with the outdoor pool being open. He stated that outdoor pool going well but would be nice to have a few more lifeguards. Patterson Lake has been busy and beach traffic is up. He said camping has been average and numbers are similar to last year at this time. Manager Mack reported on golf course rounds, 3800 rounds in May, members 2300 rounds and 1000 for daily rounds and the rest is made up of league, misc. He said season passes are at 430 passes sold for this year. He reported there are 20 teams signed up for the Heart River Shootout and said online tee times are up and running and people are utilizing, seems to be going well. Manager Mack also said that the bandshell concert series starts tomorrow, Tuesday evenings 7 pm at the bandshell with the ice center being the rain backup.

Facility Maintenance Manager (X Dukart) – Manager X Dukart reported being busy at outdoor pool, he said they had to get some kinks worked out but seems to be running smooth now. He had some line breaks, replaced some wiring that was affected from last year's storm. Electrician said he had never seen anything like that. Inside the building, doing some cardio machines work, replacing parts. Indoor pool, river pump seal is going out and will have to drain part of the pool to do the work. Manager Dukart also reported mowing and keep up with day to day maintenance at both facilities.

Projects/Capital Planning

Meyer Agreement – Director James Kramer updated the Board on the Meyer Agreement. He said Meyer's is now working directly with school district trying to figure out where the school should be. He said nobody knows why they lost interest in Sundance Village. Meyer is going to be throwing out another proposal, they owe us 32 acres one way or another. They will present to us, 12 acres to school district and 20 acres in Sundance for an athletic complex. He said they are waiting for kinks to be worked out between entities. Discussion followed. Director Kramer stated that it was the City's decision not to use Sundance.

Personnel/Finance/Administration

Approval of Pledge Securities (Attachment #2) – MOTIONED BY: Scott Karsky; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the pledge securities. Roll call vote was: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1. Motion carried.

Financial Statement (Attachment #3) – Director Kramer pointed out fund balance totals, up from a year ago, but we received \$100,000 for phase 2 of Crooked Crane Trail and fundraising for ballpark is in those totals as well. He said when the golf revenue is pulled the course is doing better than previous years.

Board Position / Budget Committee – Director Kramer said the State Statute will take place for the 2019 budget season, not this year like he originally said. President Scott Kovash said as far as the board position, we wanted to follow City's lead in filling with a former board member. He said he contacted former commissioners Al King, Carol Herauf, and Mike Lefor to see if they are interested. Al King said he leaves for winter, doesn't think that will work. Carol Herauf has agreed to fill the seat. Attorney Randy Sickler said the board gets to fill vacancy and doesn't think a waiting period applies. Director Kramer said July 28 is Howard Sharpe's last meeting, next meeting is August 14 so the 15 days waiting period will be met just in case.

Marketing/HR Manager Report (Amber Mathieson) – Manager Amber Mathieson reported getting ready for July's National Parks and Recreation Month, she said we will special events throughout, specifically July 13 at Patterson Lake, there will be an official ribbon cutting for the Crooked Crane Trail, there will also be free rounds of golf and skating at ice center. Our Dietitian Kayla Haag will provide a healthy snack for parents and we will provide daycare for the children on one of the days. Other items she is working on include signs, new flags for golf course, new flags for bandshell, trying to keep up with content on digital boards, media, social media and getting ready to work on fall brochure.

Director Report (James Kramer) – Director James Kramer said he is excited to work with the inclusive playground group. We obviously aren't doing everything right at our playground facilities, unfortunately it takes a group like this to make things happen. Originally she was asking for \$100,000 and he let her know that we had dollars set aside and now they are asking for \$250,000. It is a facility that is extremely high maintenance, high traffic area, having the full bathrooms, shelter, etc.; there are a lot of moving parts to this project. Commissioner Tim Daniel asked if we have the ability to do this in phases. Director Kramer said the rentable shelter might be something to push out, but in Mandan they do generate revenue from their facility. He said the Mandan project was \$1.3 million dollars. President Scott Kovash said it is one of those projects that we will need to provide. Director Kramer said in Mandan it has become the destination park. Discussion followed. Director Kramer said as we get into the budget season, we'll have to have discussion on staff size. Ground Maintenance Manager Scott Mack said a facility like this would take everyday maintenance plus weekends.

Legal Counsel Report – Attorney Randy Sickler had nothing to report.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Scott Karsky; SECONDED BY: Howard Sharpe to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 pm. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President