

PARK BOARD MEETING
March 29, 2019

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 8:15 am, Friday, March 29, 2019 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Kovash, Tim Daniel, Scott Karsky, Brad Fong and KC Homiston. Also present were Executive Director James Kramer, Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, Attorney Randall Sickler and Clerk Leah Hoenke.

Dickinson Public Schools Presentation – Executive Director James Kramer introduced Marc Mellmer of JE Dunn Construction and Guy Fridley from Dickinson High School, both were present to go over their plans for the new high school project. A video was played on the reasons why there needs to be a new high school. Marc from JE Dunn then presented a PowerPoint showing the plans for the new school; showing the areas of expansion and how they can salvage the current gymnasium space that was built in 1997. He compared Dickinson High School to other high schools in North Dakota that have already upgraded their school and stated that Dickinson is the one of the last Class A high school’s in North Dakota to do this, with Mandan being another. Mr. Guy Fridley, Athletic Director of Dickinson High School talked about the relationship the high school has with Dickinson Parks and Recreation. He said they work closely with each other and he appreciates the relationship and what they are doing with the new high school will only enhance that relationship with more facility space available. Mr. Fridley reviewed field space and that softball is a huge thing in our community, he explained the current field space and the new plans for fields. He stated that every kid in our community will see a benefit. Mr. Mellmer explained that they are learning from other school districts that it is better to go after the full bond amount of \$115 million all at once, instead of starting with \$88 million and then have to go after another bond in 2 years to accommodate an elementary school. He used Williston as an example, saying that they shaved off too much from their first bond and are now having to ask the public for additional dollars. He said the \$115 million will cover the new high school and elementary school. Director James Kramer commented on the history of the Park District’s relationship with the school district and he believes this new high school will enhance our programs and facilities and he said that our current soccer fields are not adequate for high school soccer. He asked if it is possible that some of the proposed fields won’t happen. Mr. Mellmer said it is dependent on the elementary school. If the school needs to be built earlier than projected, they may need to sacrifice fields. Director Kramer also asked if the existing North Complex will be usable during construction of the new school. Mr. Mellmer said that it would not be, it will be fenced off and that utilities play a large role in that as well. He said those field are safe for 2019 but not for 2020. Discussion followed on utilizing space across Fairway Street where the library was intended to be on DSU’s property. Mr. Fridley commented and said he has visited with Dr. Mitzel, DSU President and that property is State land that would need to go through a legislative process. He said there are multiple things being discussed for that land. Mr. Fridley said that when new people are looking to move to town, they always want to look at schools and he stressed that it will play a role in attracting new families to Dickinson. Commissioner Brad Fong said it is important to get the catholic system on board as well. Mr. Mellmer said that the Board at Trinity is on board and the priests are saying that 70% of their parishioners send their children to the public schools. He also said that 1 in 4 kids at Trinity High School participate in an extracurricular program at Dickinson High. President Scott Kovash thanked Marc and Guy for their presentation.

Burke Playground Grant – Director James Kramer said we were successful in getting a 50% match for our park equipment improvements. He said Optimist Park is the first on the list and that the total project is just under \$60,000 of which we budgeted \$50,000. He said the timeline is second half of May and will be put in before Memorial Day and the start of Play Park. He said the installation/freight are not part of the grant and our cost is going to push \$60,000. He said it doesn’t fall into a biddable project because of separate vendors. Director Kramer stated we will need Board approval to move forward. MOTIONED BY: KC Homiston; SECONDED BY: Scott Kovash to approve the Optimist Park Improvement Project. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-5; Naves-0; Absent-1. Motion carried.

Park Board Workshop – Director Kramer said he will schedule a Park Board Workshop. He said he will work with the board member’s schedules and have something scheduled for mid-April.

New/Old Business – Director Kramer reported that the Patterson Lake Land Transfer Bill was signed by the Governor and he said we were invited to the State of the City on May 21 that we will participate in.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Brad Fong; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 am. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President