

PARK BOARD MEETING
August 9, 2021

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 4:00 pm, Monday, August 9, 2021 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Kovash, Tim Daniel, Scott Karskv, Zach Keller. Also present were Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack, Executive Director James Kramer, Attorney Randall Sickler and Clerk Leah Hoenke. Commissioner Jo Marie Kadrmass was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTIONED BY: Scott Karskv; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve the July 12 and July 30 meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Kadrmass). Motion carried.

CLAIMS: MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve July Claims in the amount of \$1,048,498.80. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Kadrmass). Motion carried.

Project Summary (Attachment #1) – Executive Director James Kramer said the main focus has been infrastructure updates and golf course projects. All crack and patch work is complete, chip seal is done and they will come back to do all lane markings. At the golf course, crews are finishing last of bunkers, redoing some things on the fairway of hole 16. Both Cordova and Northern Improvement will be done. Director Kramer also said for Friendship Park, we received the signed contract from federal grant that will enable us to submit invoices to be reimbursed with grant dollars. He thinks it is realistic to bid and design this fall and winter and start project in the spring.

Marathon Petroleum Facility – Executive Director James Kramer said we have been approached by the group that is opposing the wind turbines project by Patterson Lake. He said we normally don't take a stance on issues like this; it is in the hands of Stark County Planning and Zoning right now. He said we were notified by the opposing group because we have taken ownership of the land at Patterson Lake. The Board agreed to stay neutral on this topic but continue to stay informed on the issue.

Director of Buildings/Grounds Report – Director Craig Pearson was absent.

Sports Complex (Attachment #2) – Executive Director Kramer said there were two requests from the Sports Complex with the first being for the Park District to consider managing the operation and maintenance of the facility along with a financial contribution. Director Kramer provided the Board with past land use agreements with the high school and DSU for reference. He said we could wait until we have more of a concrete number before taking any action. He recommended that we take the lead on what we can and can't do when it comes to O & M. He also recommended that our contribution be the \$25,000 for the tennis portion and whatever the total is for the playground project. The playground is not in their initial \$7 million project costs but they would like it to be.

Director of Recreation/Facilities Report – Director Matt Mack reported on community center memberships, saying there is 5931 memberships at the end of July. He said college semester memberships will begin in late August. He reported that the annual maintenance week is August 16-22 when WRCC will be closed with the exception of the outdoor pool that will remain open until August 22 when the season ends. Camping at Patterson Lake is in line with previous year, visitation is down currently due to lake conditions. Hockey camp has been going on at the ice center, along with other scheduled events and public skate will start in September. Director Mack reported that golf course rounds are 3785 for July and season passes are at 590, which is the highest since 2015. He said the last night of Monday men's league is this evening and women's has finished. Thursday men's league has one more week. He then reported on recreation, saying that all summer programs will be done next Thursday. The Bandshell concert Series finishes August 17 with the Chalk Walk event held that day as well. He said we are hosting the State Rec 4 Softball Tournament on August 21. The Last Chance Softball Tournament is August 29. President Scott Kovash asked if there was another water break at the outdoor pool. Director Matt Mack said it is for a water feature that we've had to close but is not causing any other issues.

Pledged Securities (Attachment #3) – MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve pledged securities. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Kadrmass). Motion carried.

July Financial Statement (Attachment #4) – Executive Director James Kramer reviewed and said the total fund balance is high due to the City's payment for their Friendship Park pledge as well as the infrastructure dollars are what is driving that fund so high.

Park District Improvement Project
Pay Application (Attachment #5) – No pay application was received.

2022 Preliminary Budget (Attachment #6) – Executive Director James Kramer reviewed and said this is the notice which will be certified with the Stark County today; the public hearing is set for September 13 at 4:45 pm. He reviewed the three main funds with the total to be levied is \$2,124,055. He said we are just under a one percent increase in dollars levied compared to previous year. He also commented that the biggest change in the budget was dollars budgeted for insurance. This year is through NDPHIT and was quite a bit lower than NDPERS which allowed us to handle other

increases better. Director Kramer said we will need Board approval. MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Scott Karsky to approve the Notice of Preliminary Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Kadmas). Motion carried.

Downtown Square MOU (Attachment #7) – Executive Director Kramer reviewed a Memo of Understanding that we received from the Downtown Dickinson Association. He said it includes all parties involved in the Downtown Square to get on paper responsibilities of all parties. He reviewed and said the section involving parks and recreation reads that Parks and Recreation and the City of Dickinson will assume maintenance of the Town Square including snow removal, foliage maintenance, garbage extraction, bathroom maintenance, sweeping and mechanical maintenance of equipment on site. Director Kramer said this is pretty vague language and said the City is considering adding one additional position for maintenance in this area. He said we'll need a better understanding of what is exactly involved. Commissioner Zach Keller said there intent is to have a variety of events and a large quantity of them. he's not sure who is realistically responsible for the maintenance. Director Kramer said there is a lot of detail that needs to be worked out on programming and every day maintenance. Commissioner Tim Daniel also said he would be reluctant as well to sign anything until more details are given. President Scott Kovash said by signing this, does it commit us to anything? Attorney Randy Sickler said the document is vague and thinks there is confusion as to what the Park District is responsible for which could be cause for argument. Commissioner Zach Keller said he would like to get a better document before signing and committing to anything. President Scott Kovash agreed saying that we are looking for more detail, too much room for argument. There was a consensus that the Board will not sign the MOU at this time. Commissioner Tim Daniel clarified that we do want to be involved, just need more clarity.

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Kramer gave kudos to our staff for a successful summer season. He said we had record numbers in many of our programs and special events. He thanked the staff for their hard work.

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

Other Business – Dickinson resident Caroline True Bright White was present to ask the Board to respond to her request to accept her property in downtown Dickinson. She said she's asked before with no answer one way or the other. She said the property is in the 100 block of First Avenue. She said there were three things attached to her gift. The first is you cannot sell the land, the second is that you cannot adjust or do something else with the land, it should remain a park. The third demand is for the dedication of the park, she would like to have the power to name. She said she insists on deciding what the dedication is. Ms. True Bright White said she wants to commend and dedicate to the women's efforts to build the City and this part of the country. She said she wants it dedicated to women and this is her way of giving the women credit. She said she needs a yes or no and get it settled. Commissioner Scott Karsky asked how big the property is. She said it is 4 lots, approximately 100 x 144. Executive Director James Kramer said he dug up the last time we had the conversations. It was first brought to the Board in 2005: the Board voted to not accept the land and did not see a need to develop a park in that area. She then came back in 2017 and said she wanted to gift the land. He said there were conversations regarding that piece of property and if that would be a place for the Downtown Park. He said we were going to talk to the City and see if that was a viable spot for the park. Director Kramer said it was discussed with Shawn Kessel who was the City Administrator at that time and then it wasn't taken any further. Ms. True Bright White said there was some discussion regarding the cinema in the downtown location, that the City needed a parking lot. She said it has been all over the place and now she's 83 and needs something to be finalized. Director Kramer said ultimately we need to give her an answer. Commissioner Scott Karsky asked if it is a park right now or just an empty lot. Ms. True Bright White said it is a park. President Scott Kovash said with the location of the park, he doesn't know if we would be interested in having a park that close to the Downtown Square. Caroline said this land is nothing like the Downtown Square, it is a peaceful park meant to be green space. She wants to make a spot to commemorate the women's work, a quiet and simple, meditative park. She said this community doesn't have a whole lot of interest in the history and humanities and that is a terrible shame. Commissioner Karsky said he likes her idea of dedicating to the pioneer women and recommended putting her dedication in the existing Pioneer Park. Caroline said she doesn't agree. She thinks it is a better green spot in downtown Dickinson, saving a little park is better than a big park in that location. Commissioner Zach Keller said his position is that we vote on this next month when we've had more time to take a look at the property and when the other board member is present. President Scott Kovash said her cause is noble, but he doesn't know we need a park in that area. He said we will put on the agenda for the next meeting to give an answer. She thanked the Board, the Board thanked her as well.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Scott Karsky to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President