

**Park Board Meeting
February 21, 2023**

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Special Meeting at 7:30 am, Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel, Jo Marie Kadrmass, Nic Stevenson, Zach Keller. Also present were Benjamin Rae, Caleb Burgard, Craig Pearson, Scott Schneider, Clerk Leah Hoenke.

Ballpark Turf Bids – Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed the ballpark turf bids said Legal Counsel Randy Sickler went through the documents as well. He said bidders were asked to provide 4 different bid amounts. The base bid to replace the turf as currently designed. Add alternate 1: To additionally add turf to the 1st and 3rd baselines in foul territory up to the current boundary of the infield and perpendicular to the fence. Add alternate 2: To additionally add turf around the edge of the infield extending 8 feet into the outfield. Add alternate 3: To include a concrete mound. Director Rae said bids were received from MidAmerica Golf and Landscape, FieldTurf USA, and Sprinturf. All three bids met or exceeded the specifications of the bid documents. He stated that staff and user groups would prefer construction of the base bid plus add alternate 1 and 2 due to consistent damage to the grass field in those areas which affects playability and increases maintenance costs. He said the staff's recommendation is to accept bid from Sprinturf as the low bidder. Director Rae said the standard is an 8-year warranty and this season will be the 12th season on the existing turf. He said we are deciding for the next 10-12 years. Commissioner Tim Daniel asked what staff preferred on type of turf. Director Rae said the warranties are all the same, FieldTurf has a longer pile length than the Sprinturf but all are considered well within the industry. Director Rae said the fiscal impact would exceed the currently committed funds of \$360,000 which consists of \$200,000 from quality-of-life funds (\$50,000/year for 2023-2026); \$100,000 from Dakota Community Bank & Trust (DCBT) Sponsorship (\$10,000 per year for 10 years); \$30,000 from Dickinson Baseball Club; and \$30,000 from Dickinson State University. He said expenses are \$13,900 for Apex Engineering. On other financial side, if we choose the add alternates it would be worth reaching out to Fisher Sand and Gravel to see if they would donate a portion, worth pursuing. He said if we decided to finance, we would have the finance charges. If we go with low bid plus add alternate 1 and 2 we're at \$369,990. Director Rae explained the financing options. Interest rates are not in our favor right now and if pull from the Park Land Development Fund, it will tap out that fund for the time being. We'd need to take out financing for \$300,000. He said DCBT sponsorship expires in 3 years, they've committed to extend that another 10 years, \$10,000 per year. Commissioner Kadrmass said she's not interested in financing, not sure if that is prudent. Director Rae said we have 4 different things we are financing currently; equipment, infrastructure, fitness equipment, golf carts, as well as irrigation at golf course that is at zero percent. Discussion followed on expenses that the half cent sales tax could cover at WRCC. President Scott Karsky said he doesn't want to finance anything, but we have the sponsorship from the bank that is very involved and that could potentially help. Director Rae said we would need to go out to bid on financing. Discussion followed. President Scott Karsky said right now we just need to get a bid approval on the turf. Commissioner Tim Daniel said he thinks we need to do the two bid alternates. Director Rae said he feels like doing the alternates 1 and 2 would be the best way to go, priority is to make sure staffing can cover our needs down the road and this will help with that. Commissioner Tim Daniel said he thinks the Big Sticks is the biggest user of the facility and they are only paying \$5,000 per year towards projects. Director Rae said by far they pay the most in their rental of the facility than other user groups. Discussion followed. Commissioner Kadrmass asked about Sprinturf. Director of Recreation/Facilities Caleb Burgard said Scott Mack said they were all comparable in specifications. Scott Schneider with APEX was present and reviewed the differences. Commissioner Kadrmass said she's in support of bid from Sprinturf with alternates 1 and 2. Director Rae said if we are going to finance to look at 5 years to keep payment lower for more flexibility, \$300,000 for 5 years. He said life expectancy is 10 years with the warranty being 8 years. President Karsky said he recommends approving Sprinturf and hold off on financing. MOTIONED BY: Jo Marie Kadrmass; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the turf bid from Sprinturf with \$369,990 including alternates 1 and 2 and direct staff to pursue information on financing. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried. Commissioner Nic Stevenson recommended keeping track of numbers on usage for the future. Director Rae said we will put together a chart of how much the groups pay and expenses.

Strategic Plan Approval – Executive Director Benjamin Rae said the strategic plan needs formal approval. MOTIONED BY: Nic Stevenson; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve Strategic Plan as presented at the February 13 meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Jo Marie Kadrmass; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 am. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President