

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
November 16, 2022
Minutes

Members Present:

Loren Anthony
Tyson Nielsen
Debi LaForge
Russ McCaig (Arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Brett Remsberg

Visitors:

Commission Representative:

Kendra Wilkinson

Staff Present:

Kevin Wishart Tabitha Sharp

Tyson moved to accept the June 29, 2022 minutes as presented.

Debi seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

Proposed Ballfield Improvement Plan

- Kevin stated that the proposed project has gone before the Excess Sales Tax committee and the document attached to the agenda showed their recommendation for ballfield improvements. He stated that they also wanted to see improvements at the pool.
- Debi asked if they thought the slide was necessary.
- Kevin stated that the committee did want to see some tangible improvements at the pool. He stated that the slide can be moved to a new pool if one was built within the next five years.
- Kevin stated that staff were already considering replacement of the pergola because the old one had to be torn out.
- Kendra asked if BCC was going to participate.
- Kevin stated that David has approached them and they are interested in participating.
- Tyson asked if the list was going to be presented as is to the Commission.
- Kevin stated that it was.
- Loren asked if they would be selling ads for the fence to help fund the project at McDonald Stadium.
- Kevin stated that they were not selling them at this time, but the discussion is happening for the future.
- Loren asked what turf would be replaced other than the mound.
- Kevin stated that the infield needs to be replaced.
- Debi asked about flooding at McDonald Stadium.
- Kevin stated that there are some, but they have improved. He stated that when they replace the fence, they hope to make some more changes that will continue to fix that. He stated that staff have been working to change the grade subtly over the last few years.
- Russ confirmed that the area behind the fencing has been diverted.
- Kevin stated that it has been mostly addressed, but more can be done through this project.
- Loren asked about the placement of the scoreboard.

- Kevin stated that the scoreboard will be moved to the left field so that it is no longer in the direct sun.
- Kendra asked what the façade improvements were.
- Kevin stated that there are cracks in the cement and problems with railing. He stated that it looks old, the facility has held up great, but it needs some attention. He stated that the concession and restrooms also need some work.
- Loren asked what bleachers need work.
- Kevin stated that the fiberglass has been painted several times, but it has been in the elements and doesn't last. He stated that there is a composite material that can be placed over the existing benches and they will last longer.
- Loren asked about the seatbacks.
- Kevin stated that we will likely replace the ones that were donated. He stated that we don't want to put them in throughout the entire stadium because it will reduce seating.
- Loren asked if the concession/restroom at East Park would be completely new.
- Kevin stated that it would be, as would Central.
- Kendra asked if we thought the excess sales tax funds would be able to cover the entire project over the three years.
- Tabitha stated that we have \$734,000 from last year, this year is on track for another record year, and so with those funds, BCC's contribution and the other savings, we would need a smaller amount the final year. She stated that staff will provide a complete breakdown when they bring it to the Commission.
- Loren asked if these things had been on deck for a while or if this was a new plan.
- Kevin stated that the facilities are in good shape, but they need some work and this allows it to happen all at one time.
- Kendra stated that the Commission has changed their approach to the projects and wanted to complete a full facility project with the excess sales tax funds as opposed to funding them a little at a time over the years.
- Russ stated that if they are willing to allow the High School to put a windscreen with a wildcat on it, he would raise funds for it.
- Kevin stated that he didn't think that would be an issue.
- Tyson asked about the concession stand/restroom design at East Park.
- Kevin stated that he envisions that the two facilities will be the same at East and Central Park. He stated that BCC has expressed interest in putting in a locker room at East and they will fund that in its entirety.

Fall Activities Report

- Kevin stated that the fall season has ended. He stated the total participants was 414 between flag football, soccer and volleyball. He stated that the numbers are similar to our pre-COVID seasons.
- Kevin stated that they didn't have a lot of problems with spectators.
- Loren asked how it went moving the flag football games to the east side.
- Kevin stated that parking was easier.

Winter Programming

- Kevin stated that basketball numbers are not good. He stated that in 3rd-6th the girls have 32, boys have 43.
- Tyson stated that he thought it was a trend.

- Kevin stated that nationally basketball numbers are decreasing.
- Kevin stated that 1st and 2nd close at the end of the week and as of this morning we have 27 players total signed up.
- Kevin stated that they have made the court smaller and are playing 3 on 3 in the younger age groups in order to give players more hands on time. He stated that some players' parents are upset because they think they should be playing 5 on 5. He stated that staff feel the kids are learning more skills and getting interested in basketball with fewer kids on the court. He asked what the board thought about the current setup.
- Tyson stated that he supported teaching the kids skills.
- Loren asked if they go back to a full court at 3rd grade.
- Kevin stated that they do, the goal heights are different for 3rd and 4th vs. 5th and 6th grades.
- Kevin stated that they will probably not have a men's basketball league this year because they cannot find officials.
- Kevin stated that adult women's volleyball will take place after January 1st.

New Business

- Russ stated that there are some good size holes at the lake fields.
- Kevin stated that they are working on that project during the off season.
- Debi asked if the City is responsible for the bike trail.
- Kevin stated that we are all the way to the turn into the campgrounds.
- Debi stated that there are some places where the sidewalk panels have separated, and it is hard on bike riders.

Director's Report

- Kevin stated that the city is working on an agreement with the college to do maintenance at the north softball fields now that the coaching staff has changed. He stated that there have been some rumors about a large fence around that field, we do not believe that will happen. He stated that the city will be able to use the field around BCC's schedule under the new agreement.
- Tyson asked if the high school would be able to play varsity games on that field now.
- Kevin stated that Orndorff is currently a better field, and so he would recommend that the high school stay on that field at least over the next year. He stated that he didn't think the college cared if the high school uses it around the college schedule.
- Tyson asked if the batting cage would be getting new netting.
- Kevin stated that it was going to be installed in the new year.
- Tyson asked if the maintenance shed at East Park will revert to the city.
- Kevin stated that he didn't believe it would, BCC paid for that.
- Tyson asked if they could put a field rake in the concession stand.
- Kevin stated that he thought that could be done with limits on the number of keys that get passed out.
- Kevin stated that winter maintenance projects are underway, including tree trimming and the disc golf course.
- Kevin stated that they need officials.
- Kevin stated that two FT staff members resigned, and we have made offers to two new people.

Adjournment at 7:20 p.m.