

Park Board
March 21, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Park Board Chair Al Vorderbrueggen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Al Vorderbrueggen, Don Moore, Blaine Golden, Hillary Hoffman, Al Kirkpatrick and Don McClintock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was entered by Moore, seconded by Hoffman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All yes.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Pool Update:

Mayor Retzer updated the board on the walk around at the pool last week. Allison Greene from RCO, Steve Nelson from Century West, State Representative David Buri, Steve Larkin, Mayor Retzer and Chris Mathis were in attendance. They looked at what updates are needed and discussed funding opportunities. Retzer stated the numbers are alarming as prices have gone up so much. This project will take grants the city can apply for and also will likely require fundraising efforts as well. Greene gave the group some really good information for funding opportunities for grants.

Mathis stated we will go for both grants, the Youth Athletic Facility and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We will also look at what we can do city wise. Mathis found out that the ARPA Funds may not be used for grant matching, which she was hoping to be able to do. She applied for and received a scholarship through AWC to have a two hour time slot with a CPA to go over the process of expenditures for the ARPA Funds. That will be one of her questions for her one on one time, if any of those funds can help with this project. The goal is to upgrade the pool lining, add a splash pad and make it family friendly for years to come. Speaking with Greene they talked about all our options what are the caps now, grant matching and what grants matches can be used against each other.

Retzer is hoping the Friends of the Parks will help with fundraising efforts.

Vorderbrueggen suggested coming up with a one sheet summary of the project and what the expectations are and the match needed to distribute to possible donors and the public.

Nelson is looking at different options for us, maybe not the "Cadillac" version that could save us some money but give us a good value for our money. Once they look to see if there are any other viable options for us we can come up with a plan. Retzer reiterated the importance for having a pool for the community and specifically for the at risk kids.

Hoffman expressed concern about the splash pads and waste of water and also if they are specialized for specific age groups.

Retzer interjected the fixtures can be interchangeable and can be changed out. There could be fundraising or businesses that sponsor a fixture to add to the collection. A business could put their name or logo on it for advertising.

Mathis stated we want this to be family friendly and right now there is nowhere for toddlers to play unless a parent is holding them in the water, you have to be 4 feet tall to be able to play in the pool by yourself.

Vorderbrueggan stated a lot of this features are activated when kids are playing in them, they are not running all the time.

Moore asked if we are looking at \$3 million.

Retzer stated with everything we would really like to do, yes.

Hammer stated this is basically the bare bones and the bulk of the cost is the liner.

They are currently replacing the filter system and doing work in the mechanical room, this is from a grant we received last year. Retzer said it really look good in there.

Golden confirmed we are on track to open the pool the last day of school again this year.

Greenway Update:

Golden stated the mayor has done some amazing work on the Greenway talking with legislators about the project, specifically Representative Joe Schmick. Golden introduced the Greenway Citizen's Group: Molly Keogh, Nancy Rothwell, Bob Krikac, Kari Vielle and Debbie Snell. There has been an anonymous donation that Keogh is the point of contact for the donation and they asked for a citizens group to help guide that donation and hopefully get the project done in the next few years. Shaun Darveshi from the Palouse RTPPO attended the last meeting, he spoke about what his organization does and some of the resources they are involved with. Darveshi sits on a couple of committees specifically related to trail building. He suggested a survey to begin with to gauge support of the trail and also put together an economic impact report to help put together grants and to go for additional funding. The council is supportive of Darveshi helping the city out in this process.

Retzer had scheduled Joe Schmick to attend the next citizen meeting but something came up and he will not be able to attend, they will try for the next meeting. The project is delayed a year due to the funding, the legislature has to act before this project can even move forward.

Mathis stated the unknown with the rails and what will happen with the dams, the legislatures likely won't act on removing the rails.

The first phase of the trail will be from Eells Park to Ace Hardware, Hammer stated once we decide to go north we will need to start looking at replacing bridges.

The trail that would go to Albion and Pullman is controversial; several landowners do not want that trail to be put in. Retzer wants to make sure the legislatures know this trail is only in the city limits and does not include that trail.

Moore asked if we could start working on bathrooms due to this project being stalled.

Mathis stated we have it in our budget to do some bathroom upgrades and another item being discussed is a trail from Hauser down to Park Street.

Retzer confirmed Steve Larkin has replaced the broken toilets and McDonald Park. Also the Norm Willson Memorial sign is up, Public Works was able to get that up before family came in for Joan Willson's funeral.

Hammer announced there will be a new vendor in McDonald Park Concessions this year, it will be 165° Brew.

Hoffman asked if Larkin has had a chance to work on the disc golf course. Hoffman is on the 150 Celebration Committee and asked Larkin if he would have it up by then.

Hammer stated they will try very hard to get it by then, they are having issues with mapping out a course. The bases are semi-permanent because they are on concrete slabs that would not be easy to move.

Hoffman doesn't want to rush and knows it is a lot of work.

Hoffman asked if there has ever been a porta potty at Schmuck Park, it may be nice for the months that the bathrooms can't be open due to weather.

Vorderbrueggen added the Schmuck Park/ Track restrooms were supposed to be heated but that was cut last minute and was very controversial.

Next meeting will be April 18th @ 5:30 p.m.

Retzer announced if we get the opportunities to do some fundraising he will need the help from everyone possible.

Vorderbrueggen appreciates Retzer and his efforts and stated we are all here to support him.

Vorderbrueggen will be there every step of the way with pool renovations and the greenway.

Kirkpatrick asked what kind of money we will be looking at to raise.

Retzer thought around the \$750,000 range.

Golden interjected he is willing to help just let him know.

UPCOMING MEETING:

Next meeting will be April 18th @ 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Vorderbrueggen adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk