

Park Board
April 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Park Board Chair Al Vorderbrueggen called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

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

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:

Mayor Retzer reported the pool project has gone out for bid, the closing date for bids will be April 25th at 2:00 p.m. Retzer stated we do not have a start date for the project, there are permits through the State that may delay the process.

Retzer has a meeting Thursday for potential additional funding.

Mathis spoke with Pullman Aquatics for potential site for Colfax Swim Team to practice and hold meets.

Jani Burt from the Colfax Swim Team interjected stating Pullman Aquatics would not work, there is not enough room and spectating would be impossible with limited indoor space. Burt went on to say Palouse pool is not ideal but possible for practice and meets. The swim team has concerns about transportation for many of the members, many ride their bikes to and from practice.

Paige Collins from Coast has the availability to help bus kids to the town they end up using for practice, she has 2 -14 passenger vans.

Vorderbrueggen stated for the short term this will be growing pains for the community but long term this project will make the pool fully functional, repair the enormous water leaking and will make the pool great for years to come.

Golden stated the pool leaks 35,000 + gallons a day, we have to pay to heat and chlorinate to keep the pool running. We have to remember around 2017 City of Colfax was close to closing the pool permanently due to repairs that needed to be done. The Metropolitan Park District (MPD) was passed that yea, that allowed the funding to keep the doors open for the pool. The city has been able to limp the pool along since then but now we are at the point we have to do some major fixes to the pool. We have the money now to fix it and if we don't use it, we will lose it, so now is the time.

Mathis stated the pool loses money every year. We do what we can to keep the costs down but it is definitely not a money maker for the city.

The swim team asked if there is any funding available to help with the cost of busing kids to other towns for practice and meets.

Mathis has been thinking about that and looking at lodging tax grants or possibly grants through RCO. She also asked that if anyone has any ideas with this to reach out to her. Mathis asked the Swim Team to come up with numbers so she knows the amount when she would need to look for.

Vorderbrueggen has been on the park board for 25 plus years he has seen the city staff work hard at keeping the pool going, we all want to keep it open. They are a partner and not the enemy on this at all.

Mary Jean Inman thanked the city staff for all their hard work they have put into this. She went on to say our attitudes are really going to matter as we put this out to the community.

Discussion ensued:

- logistics of the swim team practices and meets /transportation
- how to get the word out to the public
- lane line storage
- pool rental for swim team

The city will announce the pool closure once the bids come in and are tabulated to make sure that all the criteria of the project are met.

McClintock stated he has been on the board for many years and there has been several needs that have come up and parents always come up with plans to fundraise and citizens in the community join in the efforts.

Golden asked what comes with pool rental fee.

Mathis answered that the fees pay for the cost of the lifeguards. The swim team applies for a lodging tax grant that pays for their portion each year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Skate Park:

Chamber President Gary Young stated the Skate Park needs attention. Young stated 4 clubs are willing to put money into the project: Eagles, Kiwanis, Colfax Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Columbus.

Young announced the next Chamber Mixer will be May 9th.

Golden suggested the skate park project could be a good topic for one of their mixers.

Kirkpatrick interjected the Rotary field was completely redone this year; the Rotary club put about \$15,000 into it.

Kirkpatrick likes Young's idea of getting area clubs involved so it doesn't land on the city to repair. The City's role in this would be to get things organized and find out what costs are and then see let the clubs know. Then fundraising and donations can be taken

Disc Golf:

Retzer was asked by a citizen if we could put up tee boxes and a map of the Disc Golf Course at Schmuck Park.

UPCOMING MEETING:

Next meeting will be April 15th at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Vorderbrueggen adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.



Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk