

MARCH 4, 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/YOUTH & REC MEETING MINUTES

4:15 PM Meeting at Ladysmith City Hall Council Chambers. Members present: Brian Grootousen, Gerard Schueller, Marty Reynolds, Bill Morgan, John Pohlman II-Park Bd Chair.

Others present: Asst. DPW- Doug Parker, Admin- Alan Christianson, Mayor-Kalvin Vacho, John Pohlman III. Al Christianson.

Call to Order:

Chair Brian Grootousen called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

MCHS Proceeds & Recreational Needs:

Asst. Parker opened the discussion by providing estimated costs for improvements to the Industrial ballpark, Christman Field, Memorial Park, Falge Park, Centennial Park & Community Center. Administrator Christianson then provided a bid from Ziegler Electric to replace the existing community center gym lights with LED lighting for \$5000. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Christianson also provided several bleacher quotes for review. Mr. Grootousen asked if the city was proceeding with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to expand economic opportunities and stretch match dollars, Admin Christianson replied that the city will apply for a CDBG-PF grant in 2022. Councilman Reynolds spoke in support of replacing the gym lighting and adding four bleachers to the community center as they are currently being used by several area groups. The favored bleachers are a three row 15' aluminum Tip N' Roll Bleacher that can be easily moved, each bleacher seats 30. Discussion of the community center included the asset the gym provides and current rental rates and if these fees should be removed or remain in place.

Motion by Marty Reynolds to recommend Council accept the Bid from Ziegler Electric in the amount of \$5000 to replace 23 high bay fixtures with directional LED bulbs & replace (8) 2 bulb fixtures with LED tubes, Second by Gerard Schueller. Motion carried by voice vote.

Ziegler will change out the non-working lights in the cafeteria with useable lights salvaged from the gymnasium.

Memorial Park tennis court replacement was then discussed. Mr. Parker informed the committee that plans have been done and are ready to be sent out for bids. Mr. Grootousen made a motion that Council proceed with the tennis court plans and seek bids, second by Marty Reynolds. The tennis court plans ready for bid depict two options, option one is to replace the current tennis courts with two tennis courts, the alternate bid to for one tennis court and two pickle ball courts. Mayor Vacho asked if the plans could be altered to offer two tennis courts and two pickle ball courts both using the same nets. Mr. Parker will contact the court engineer to see if this is possible. Committee members would like to hear from the tennis court and pickle ball enthusiasts. Motion and 2nd rescinded until more information is received.

Park Board Chair Pohlman petitioned the Committee to move forward in moving the skate park from the downtown to the community center. A house was razed on the community center grounds at E 6th St S and Washington Ave that would provide a good location for the skate park. This site also offers water and sewer although the condition of the utilities is unknown. Mr. Morgan advocated that public input be sought before moving the skate park. Mr. Pohlman noted the skate park and its users have had demands and restrictions put on them that no other group has had. This improvement should have the same standards as repairing the tennis courts, baseball fields or basketball courts. Mr. Pohlman also

voiced the need for an accessible restroom at the community center that is available during park hours. Mr. Reynolds voiced his support of a southside park but would like to review with a developer before making any final plans. Mr. Gorseger noted that the pumps at Parker's Pond have a problem with the intake pipe. This will be investigated and corrected when personnel and weather permits.

O.J. Falge Park Boardwalk was discussed, the boardwalk is currently closed due to structural problems and the erratic movement of the surface. Mr. Morgan & Mr. Groothousen voiced support for getting the boardwalk issue resolved.

Improvement ideas discussed include:

Industrial Park Ballfield improvements

- Add Bathrooms \$100,000
- Purchase property-Add third ballfield \$75,000
- Add playground feature \$15,000
- Picnic Tables \$1,000
- Batting Cage
- Security Cameras \$500
- Refurbish Pavilion \$2000

Christman Field Improvements

- New fencing \$30,000
- New Bleachers (2) \$5,000

Memorial Park Improvements

- Tennis Courts / Pickle Ball \$80,000
- Court Lighting \$15,000
- Veterans Pkwy E Lighting (3) \$5,000

Falge Park Improvements

- Add playground feature \$10,000
- Complete N/S Board Walk \$75,000

Centennial Park Improvements

- New Benches
- New Planters

Community Center

- New Playground \$75,000
- Upgrade Parkers Pond Drainage/pumpage
- New Soccer Field
- Pave Track
- Skate Park Concrete \$10,000 (70'x140')
- Add Pickle Ball Court
- Add Bathroom \$70,000

Lake Ave Fire Dept. Lot

Digital Informational Bd-Community Events

Mr. Groothousen asked the city administrator to look for funding sources for each item listed and would like to see the combined committee develop a priority improvement list.

Mr. Groothousen turned chair responsibilities to Gerard Schueller as he had to leave.

Mr. Christianson informed the joint committee that plans are proceeding for the new Veteran Pavilion, walkway and bathrooms. The administrator said he is working with the DNR grant specialist to finalize the grant application. The Riverwalk path along Memorial Park is estimated to cost \$30,000 in gravel or could be a concrete sidewalk for \$40,000. The addition of bathrooms at the Veterans Pavilion may be possible through the generous donation of time by Councilman Reynolds. The public has also donated to the Veteran Pavilion re-model.

Christman field was discussed, the fencing all needs to be replaced. It may be possible to salvage the fencing from the Mount Senerio site prior to demolition. The backstop at Christman Field is also beyond repair and should be replaced. months.

Community Center

Councilman Reynolds and Administrator Christianson noted that lighting improvements to the community center gymnasium and the addition of bleachers is a vital improvement, it is hoped that the school district will utilize the existing facilities available before initializing a three/four million dollar gymnasium complex.

Motion by Marty Reynolds to recommend council purchase 4 bleachers not to exceed \$6,000 for the community center. Second by Gerard Schueller. Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM by Chair Schueller

Minutes by Doug Parker 3/8/21