

Cameron Park Board Meeting

March 21, 2013

6:00 pm

Cameron City Hall

Members Present:

Chairman Bill Gimson

Al Briggs

Jennifer Helmich

Jason Jones

Michael Teegarden

Kari Teel

Jamey McVicker

Members Absent:

Rob Balliett

Matt Jameson

Others Attending:

Drew Bontrager, Public Works Director

Steve Garr, Parks Director

Mark Gaugh – City Manager

Barbara O'Connor – City Clerk

Dennis Clark - Mayor

Darlene Breckenridge – City Council Member

Andy Smith, Larkin Aquatics

Jack Briggs

Bill Rose-Heim

Chairman Gimson called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Cameron Aquatic Center

A special Park Board meeting was held on March 21, 2013 to present to City Council members Larkin Aquatics evaluation of the current aquatic center and the Board's recommendation for replacing the aquatic center. Andy Smith with Larkin Aquatics was present to make a formal presentation and answer any questions or concerns the City Council may have. Mr. Smith provided a presentation that displayed the current condition of the aquatic center and the Board's recommended proposal and Mr. Bontrager presented funding options.

Current Aquatic Center

Mr. Smith stated that the current aquatic center is 30 plus years old and will need minor to major repairs in the next 5-10 years. New regulations have also been introduced and the whole aquatic center will need to be brought up to ADA standards as soon as possible. The current bathhouse is in excellent shape and will be able to be modified to become ADA compliant.

To become ADA compliant, the main swimming pool will require a ramp and stairs for access to the water. The tot pool must have a sloped entry from the deck and will need to be completely redone. There will need to be a ramped entry from the bathhouse to the pool and deck access to the concessions area.

Mr. Smith also reported that the pool basin has delamination and deterioration cracks and joints. The joint sealant needs replacing. The pool deck has damage at the corners and there are settlement issues. The waterslide is also reaching the end of its life.

Options for Repair and Replacement

To repair the current facility, the cost is approximately \$1,050,000. This will replace the tot pool, modify the current bathhouse and repair the pool basin.

There is an option of a phased replacement of the aquatic center. Phase 1 would consist of replacing the bathhouse and phase 2 would be repairing or modifying everything else.

The Park Board has discussed both a phased repairing of the aquatic center and a proposed concept of replacing the current facility with a new and updated concept.

The new concept will accommodate approximately 500 people and have 25 meter laps. The proposed budget on the project is approximately \$3,000,000.

The bathhouse would be completely gutted and everything replaced to make it ADA compliant and more efficient.

The staffing requirements would be approximately seven lifeguards on the deck at a time and possibly more or less depending on the attendance.

The operating costs would be approximately \$92,900 annually – not including the offset of revenue.

Funding Options

Mr. Bontrager presented funding options that are available. The different funding sources include; sales tax, property tax, State and Federal grants and private/corporate donations. Mr. Bontrager stated that there may be one State and Federal grant available but it could be difficult to obtain.

Mr. Bontrager stated that there is a Parks & Storm Water Tax that has 1/8 cent available. 3/8 cent is already committed. There is also a Capital Improvements Sales Tax with 1/8 cent available. Like the Parks & Storm Water Tax 3/8 cent is already committed. The community would need to vote of the different 1/8 cent taxes before they could be used.

The Park Board believes that the two available \$0.00125 taxes would be the best options for funding the aquatic center. Part of the tax would be set aside for maintenance of the pool and to offset the costs.

Ms. Breckenridge asked about the current aquatic center budget.

Chairman Gimson stated that currently the expenses are \$56,000 not including ongoing maintenance.

Mr. Smith stated that in the proposed budget, \$13,000 has been built in for general maintenance.

Chairman Gimson stated that the current \$0.00125 sales tax is being used for the maintenance of the pool along with other parks projects and parks maintenance.

Mayor Clark requested that the Park Board hold off on a decision about the aquatic center for another 45-60 days. Mayor Clark stated that there are other *parks* projects in the works that may affect the pool project.

Members of the Board were confused about other *parks* projects in the works because they had not been notified of this development.

Mayor Clark stated that the project was a collaborative project between many groups and he wanted to make sure everything was in legal order before the ideas were presented to the public.

Mr. Jones stated that the Board was planning to have the final project ideas finalized by the beginning of the pool season so drawings of the proposed aquatic center could be displayed at the current facility.

Mr. Teegarden stated that he would like to have something in place by mid-May and asked Mr. Smith how long it would take to get all the graphics and proposed drawing of the new facility in place.

Mr. Smith stated that it would take approximately three weeks to develop the artwork.

Mayor Clark stated that the *parks* project in the works could significantly change the course of action for the new aquatic facility. Currently, City Council is working independently and without notifying anyone of the plan until the plan is ready for open discussion. By the end of April, Council hopes to have a collaborative meeting with multiple boards; Park Board, hospital, etc.

Ms. Breckenridge asked about the timeline at Recreation Park.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the restrooms should be completed by Memorial Day. The electric for the lighting has been somewhat delayed because of the weather but will be completed as soon as possible.

Ms. Breckenridge believes that a new aquatic facility is a great project and she supports the new concept. Ms. Breckenridge hopes the community will see this as a positive project and that the aquatic facility will be successful.

Pat Jones, a member from the community, spoke and was concerned that there is a *collaborative* project that involves the Park Board and that members of the Park Board were not informed or aware of a plan.

Ms. Helmich stated that park plans should be discussed with the Park Board.

Mr. Jones expressed that the Park Board has spent a lot of time and money on the new aquatic facility project just to be told at the peak of the project that there are other, *bigger* plans in the works and to place the aquatic facility project on hold.

Mayor Clark stated that the Council is working on a plan and does not want to present the plan until everything is perfect and in order.

Ms. Briggs feels that the Board is being led down the wrong path again and important projects are being delayed constantly.

Jack Briggs, a member from the community, asked what would happen if the aquatic facility was not modified to become ADA compliant.

Mr. Smith responded by saying that nothing would happen unless the Department of Justice was informed and then the facility could be permanently shut down until the facility was made compliant.

Chairman Gimson stated that the pool would remain open until someone complained about the non-compliance; however, the facility needs to become ADA compliant as soon as possible. Chairman Gimson is afraid that if the project is drawn out too long, nothing will be accomplished like in the past and that the pool could be permanently shut down.

Chairman Gimson addressed the City Council members present and stated that the Park Board will need City Council approval to put up for vote the two \$0.00125 sales tax before the project could continue.

Ms. Breckenridge asked about the different public relations options the Park Board has discussed using.

Mr. Smith stated that there are multiple printed materials, mailers, posters and fliers that could be produced for advertising at City Hall, the current aquatic facility and the newspaper. Public meetings

will also be utilized to bring the project to the public and answer any questions or concerns they may have.

Bill Rose-Heim asked if it would be possible to walk individuals around the current facility to explain the new proposed concept so they can visualize what the renovation will do.

Chairman Gimson stated that the Board would keep this idea in mind.

Ms. Helmich stated that the Board is going to bring in the swim team and other organizations to get feedback on the proposed concept.

Chairman Gimson stated that he believes the Park Board has developed a huge trust with the community and that money is spent wisely. Chairman Gimson has full faith that the sales tax will pass.

Chairman Gimson would like to know if City Council will support the project and expressed that delaying the project is not a good idea.

The Board would like to know how City Council would like the Board to proceed. The Board requested that Council comments and more information about the *parks project* be provided to them by the April meeting.

The Park Board plans on having an attendee at the March 29, 2013 brainstorming meeting about the collaborative plan at 1:30pm. If no one is able to attend, Mayor Clark and City Manager Mark Gaugh will update the Board on the meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:42 pm.

Chris O'Donnell
Secretary Recorder
Cameron, MO 64429

Bill Gimson
3/28/13