

Cameron Park Board Meeting  
April 25, 2013  
6:00 pm  
Cameron City Hall

**Members Present:**

Chairman Bill Gimson  
Al Briggs  
Jennifer Helmich  
Jason Jones  
Matt Jameson  
Kari Teel  
Michael Teegarden

**Members Absent:**

Jamey McVicker  
Rob Balliett

**Others Attending:**

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Drew Bontrager, Public Works Director | Betty Price         |
| Steve Garr, Parks Director            | Tom Price           |
| Frank Buck                            | Steve Briggs        |
| Chris Johnson, Cameron Newspaper      | Adrienne Kirkendoll |
| Dennis Clark, Mayor                   |                     |

Chairman Gimson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Approval of March 28, 2013 Minutes**

*Mr. Teegarden made a motion to approve minutes of the March 28, 2013 meeting; seconded by Ms. Briggs. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 7, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 2.*

**Public Participation**

Betty Price, Tom Price and Steve Gates attended the meeting representing the Cameron Municipal Band.

Ms. Price stated that children are tearing up the Band Shell storage facility located in McCorkle Park and the Band would like to build a permanent structure on the northwest side of the current Band Shell so they can store their equipment.

Mr. Gates presented the plans to the Board. The structure would be a 10 ft. x 10 ft. structure with a concrete foundation located between the current sidewalk to the north of the Band Shell. The new building would match the current Band Shell; however, the new structure would be enclosed. The Band would like the structure to be tall enough so children could not climb on the top of the building. The doors would face to the east.

Mr. Jones asked who would take care of the maintenance of the new building.

Ms. Price stated that the Band would take care of all maintenance and upkeep issues.

Mr. Jones suggested that the Band correspond with Mr. Garr as to the placement so the security cameras could be pointed towards the structure to catch any possible vandalism.

Ms. Price also stated that the current storage unit located in the Band Shell would be removed after the new structure is built.

*Mr. Teegarden made a motion to allow the Cameron Municipal Band to build a storage shed on the north side of the current structure; seconded by Mr. Jones. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 7, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 2.*

### **Treasury Report**

No comments

### **Aquatic Facility/ Parks Planning**

Mayor Dennis Clark addressed the Board about the *parks project* that has been proposed in prior meetings. Mayor Clark stated that the project is geared towards tourism and recreation.

Currently, the City owns acreage by the reservoir; however, more land would need to be purchased to connect the area for large walking, biking and horse trails. The plan is to have the trails come out a McEwain Drive.

Mayor Clark plans to hold a public meeting and also work with the Park Board to brainstorm on ideas that will be a benefit to the community when utilizing the land. Developing the land will make Cameron a tourist spot and will bring business to town.

A few ideas that have been lined out for the use of the land include; high quality playground equipment, horse trails, hiking/biking trails, baseball complex and camping to name a few.

Mayor Clark spoke with legal counsel regarding the swimming pool and leaving it in the same location if the ½ cent sales tax is voted on and accepted by the public. Legal believes that if the swimming pool is tied into the whole project, monies will be able to be spent on the pool in the same location it is now.

A member from the public asked if there are grants available for this project.

Chairman Gimson stated that there are grants available; however, they can be difficult to receive. Recently, the City received a grant for the trails project that is currently being implemented in stages around the reservoir.

Chairman Gimson stated that he is worried about maintaining everything in the project when and if it is built. Currently there is not enough man power or funds to encompass this new project.

Mayor Clark stated that research would need to be completed during the planning process for management of the areas and funds to support the maintenance and upkeep.

Ms. Helmich asked if a new board was being created for the project and how it is being handled.

Mayor Clark stated that that issue is currently being worked on. However, he believes the City would ultimately be in charge of the project.

Chairman Gimson stated that he does not want the pool project to fall through the gap and possibly not open one year because of ill repair.

Mayor Clark believes that there is a better chance of the ½ cent sales tax passing than the two 1/8 cent sales taxes that the Park Board is proposing. Mayor Clark also stated that the City would benefit more from the ½ cent sales tax.

Chairman Gimson asked if additional land would need to be purchased. If baseball fields are to be built, in the proposed area, a significant area of flat land would be needed.

Mayor Clark stated that additional land would need to be purchased.

Chairman Gimson asked if a tourism tax like the city of Lexington, MO currently has would be equivalent to the funds for the potential project.

Mr. Teegarden stated that tourism taxes are received from hotels, motels and restaurants.

Mayor Clark stated that he plans to have the ½ cent sales tax proposal on the November ballot.

Ms. Helmich asked if wrapping the pool in with a different tax besides the 1/8 cent sales tax would change who runs or manages the pool.

Mayor Clark stated that he did not know the answer and legal counsel would have to be advised.

Mr. Teegarden stated that he wants to be proactive and look at all possible projects; however, he wants to make sure the pool issue is addressed.

Chairman Gimson voiced a concern that if the Park Board decides to wrap the swimming pool in with the ½ cent sales tax project the new committee may not think a new pool is necessary and the money be used for another project.

Chairman Gimson asked who the Board will be made up of and when it will be formed.

Mayor Clark stated that he did not know the answer to the question.

Chairman Gimson suggested that the Park Board table the idea of two 1/8 cent sales taxes until there is more information and clarification on the proposed ½ cent sales tax by Mayor Clark. However, the Board should continue working on the pool concept and associated costs so everything is in place if either concept comes to fruition.

Mr. Jones would like to get more information before presenting the pool project to the public.

Mayor Clark suggested that the Board continue putting together their questions and relay them to the City Manager for answers.

*Chairman Gimson made a motion to table the two 1/8 cent sales tax and continue working on the Larkin Aquatics pool concept; seconded by Mr. Teegarden. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 7, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 2.*

A meeting has been scheduled for May 7, 2013 at 4:30pm at the Methodist Church to discuss the *collaborative parks plan*.

### **Director/Foreman Report**

#### **Earl Park Fountain**

Mr. Bontrager reported that the work has been completed by Lawns Unlimited on the Earl Park Fountain and the bubbler was officially turned on April 24, 2013.

#### **Planning & Zoning**

Mike O'Donnell from the Planning & Zoning Board has requested that the Park Board become actively involved in keeping the Comprehensive Plan up to date. In the future, there may be joint meetings between City Council, Planning & Zoning and the Park Board to update the plan. No outside firm will be hired for the update process.

## **Seasonal Help**

Mr. Garr reported that summer staff has been hired. Doug Newel will begin working on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Jackson Booth will begin working on April 26<sup>th</sup>, and Wyatt Morris and Nathan Fagerstone will begin working after school, weekends or as needed during the summer.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **Recreation Programs**

Adrienne Kirkendoll addressed the Board and presented a letter outlining her concerns with the YMCA's management of the youth sports programs currently offered. Concerns included the high cost, inconsistent and varied knowledge level of the coaches and lack of management and leadership from the YMCA. Ms. Kirkendoll and many other parents have become concerned that their children are not gaining the appropriate skills needed to continue on with the sports programs in Cameron. Because of this, many children are either not participating or going to outside communities to participate in youth sports activities. The high costs associated with the youth programs is causing parents to take their children to other towns for a more cost effective program taking them away from their friends and the concept of pride in Cameron sports and recreation. Ms. Kirkendoll believes that the parents would prefer their children to stay in Cameron to participate but the current situation does not allow them to do so.

Ms. Kirkendoll stated that in the past, the Park Board has been in charge of the youth sports program and did a wonderful job managing and teaching the youth. Ms. Kirkendoll proposed that the Park Board consider the idea of taking over the recreation programs. If the Park Board takes over the youth recreation program, the cost would be more affordable and the children would be able to learn the sports on a better level. Ms. Kirkendoll believes that many businesses and clubs/committees in the community would donate money and possibly time to help grow the program and make it more affordable for the City and families.

The Board advised Ms. Kirkendoll to contact Steve Garr and work with the committee of Mr. Jameson, Mr. McVicker and Mr. Jones to begin developing ideas and a plan for the Park Board to possibly take over the youth sports program. Her concerns and ideas about the youth sports program would be a wonderful benefit to the children and development of the program. In the future, a more efficient and cost effective program could possibly be obtained.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the contract with the YMCA on the youth sports programs requires a 60 day notice from either party for the termination of the contract.

Chairman Gimson stated that currently there are two part time employees at the YMCA in charge of the youth sports program.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Attendance**

Mr. Jones asked about the attendance policy because Mr. Balliett has not been in attendance for some time.

Mr. Bontrager stated that Mr. Balliett contacted him and stated that he has started a new job working evenings and is hoping he can get time off for the meetings after he works there for a short time.

Mr. Bontrager will contact Mr. Balliett and report to the Board at the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

*Chairman Gimson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Jameson. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 7, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 2.*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Board will be 6:00pm on May 23, 2013 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:47 pm.

*Chris O'Donnell  
Secretary Recorder  
Cameron, MO 64429*

*Bill Gimson  
5/23/13*