

FILE COPY

Cameron Park Board Meeting

December 9, 2015

6:00 pm

Cameron City Hall

Members Present:

Chairman – Bill Gimson

Al Briggs

Cory Brown

Wendy Copple

Ruth Hammontree – left at 7:37pm

Jennifer Helmich

Jason Jones

Carrie Sybert

Richard Whalen

Members Absent:

None

Others Attending:

Drew Bontrager – Public Works Director

Steve Garr

Mike O'Donnell – Cameron Chamber

Mary Jo Eiberger - YMCA

Chris Johnson – Cameron Newspaper

Chairman Gimson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of October 22, 2015 Minutes

Ms. Helmich made a motion to approve minutes of the October 22, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Sybert. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 9, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 0.

Public Participation

None

Treasurer's Report

No comment.

Director/Foreman's Report

Holiday Lighting

Mike O'Donnell representing the Cameron Chamber expressed his thanks to the Board and the City Crews for all the help that made the holiday lighting ceremony and parade happen. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Chamber cannot put on the event without the help of the City.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the event this year was very cold and rainy; however, there was still a good turnout from the community considering the combined parade and lighting which was a change for this year. The event will mostly be the same weekend and evening next year.

Santa Clause at Recreation Park also went very well and they had a good turnout.

The Chamber will talk about the 2016 holiday celebration at the January Chamber meeting. Recreation Park served as a wonderful place to hold the activities and will be utilized in the future.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that for next year, there will most likely be a 'point' person for the ceremony so everyone knows who to go to with questions and coordination issues.

Mr. Garr is a huge asset to the event. He knows what needs to be done and makes sure everything is ready.

Mr. O'Donnell encouraged the Board to pass on suggestions and ideas for next year to the Chamber Board.

Next year, the Chamber has considered having Santa Clause in Recreation Park more than one night for the kids.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, there was an issue with some of the lighting displays not working properly. The excessive rains caused breakers to trip due to the excess water. These issues were all addressed.

Volleyball Courts

Due to the weather, Duffy Reynolds Construction was not able to start the drainage work on the volleyball courts. They were able to start the work the week of this meeting and hope to be done soon.

Recreation Park

Larry's Wooden Wonders was able to create a dragon out of the dead tree in Recreation Park. Aesthetic, park friendly fencing/landscaping is being worked on to limit people from climbing on the structure. Permanent lighting will possibly be added to the sculpture when the lighting project is installed in the spring.

Trees

A total of 19 new trees were planted by park staff; Five at McCorkle Park, four at Beavers Park and 10 in Recreation Park, including pine trees on the north side of the tennis courts.

Trash and Recycling Receptacles

New trash and recycling receptacles were installed in McCorkle Park and Recreation Park. New receptacles were also installed at the Swimming Pool and Soccer Complex. This was made possible by a solid waste recycling grant.

Cameras

The new surveillance cameras have been installed and are functioning at Recreation Park and the Soccer Complex.

Veterans Memorial

The asphalt work has been completed and a new roadway installed at the Veterans Memorial. The majority of the cost for this project was covered by a fund set up for improvements to the Memorial.

Training

Gary Markenson with the Missouri Municipal League will be conducting a Sunshine Law training Thursday, December 10, 2015 at Washington Street Grill at 6:00pm.

Old Business

None

New Business

A: Aquatic Facility and Ball Park Funding

The City Manager has been directed to place a standing agenda item on both the City Council and Parks and Recreation Board agenda for public participation on issues related to the acquisition of funding for the pool and ball parks. The standing agenda item will continue for the remainder of 2015 and be extended as needed.

A request will be made to all philanthropic and social organizations asking them to invite a representative of the committee to present their draft proposal during the month of October.

No representatives were present at the meeting to discuss.

B: YMCA Aquatic Facility Year End Reports

Mary Jo Eiberger was present at the meeting to present the report on behalf of the YMCA.

2015 was a cool and rainy summer which resulted in total revenues coming in at \$1,433 under the 2014 season. Ms. Eiberger stated that this was mostly related to pool party revenue as there were fewer parties this year.

Total expenses were only slightly less than 2014 as the facility still had to be completely staffed to operate. Total loss for the summer was \$6,926. The minimum wage increase and the overall cost of doing business attributes to the increase of losses.

Attendance was slightly higher in 2015; however, fewer pool passes were sold. There were days with minimal kids and days with a high number of attendance.

Ms. Eiberger stated that the weekends at the end of August and early September were extremely difficult to staff due to college kids going back to school and high school kids that were involved in fall sports and other activities. The pool was not able to be open on August 22, 2015 due to the inability to staff the facility at a safe level.

Ms. Eiberger stated that she had plenty of life guards this year; however, they were all involved in high school activities which made staffing difficult.

Ms. Eiberger stated that the policy for keeping the pool open is to have a minimum attendance of 12 during the first hour of they shut down the pool. She tries to keep the facility open if at all possible.

Ms. Eiberger also stated that the YMCA would like future contracts to state that they have the authority to not open the pool if the water temperature is not high enough or unsafe conditions are present.

The YMCA Board of Directors has recommended that they manage the aquatic facility for the 2016 season at the current rate of \$15,000. They are also asking that the pool not be open on weekends after school starts as staffing is difficult or near impossible.

Chairman Gimson asked if the Board/YMCA needed to look at a rate increase for the 2016 season.

Ms. Eiberger stated that as the YMCA director, a rate increase would be a good discussion topic in the future; however, as a citizen, she would not recommend a rate increase at this time.

Chairman Gimson encouraged Ms. Eiberger to get with Mr. Garr on items that need to be addressed prior to the facility opening in 2016.

Ms. Eiberger stated that the door on the concession stand will need to be replaced.

Mr. Garr stated that there is one lifeguard stand that also needs to be replaced. He is currently looking into a portable stand. The cost to fix the broken stand is excessive; therefore, it is more cost effective to replace it.

Mr. Garr also stated that keeping the facility open after school is in session is costly as it still has to be cleaned and treated on a daily basis. It may be more cost effective to close the pool after school starts.

Ms. Eiberger also stated that the concrete is breaking down around the pool.

Ms. Helmich asked if the City Manager has checked with an ADA Attorney to see where the City stands on opening the pool. Mr. Bontrager will check with Mr. Gaugh and see if he has any details.

Mr. Whalen asked if there were liability issues for reopening the facility.

Mr. Bontrager stated that there are always liability issues.

Chairman Gimson stated that it may be worth having another evaluation of the facility.

Mr. Bontrager stated that Larkin Aquatics is putting together a proposal to re-evaluate the facility and recommended repairs. The repairs will be broken out into what City Staff can fix and what repairs would need to be bid out.

Chairman Gimson asked when the YMCA would need to know if they will be managing the facility for the 2016 season.

Ms. Eiberger stated that they would like to start reviewing the contract in January if possible. The YMCA is in favor of the partnership with the City and Park Board and would like to continue working together in the future.

Ms. Sybert was in favor of the YMCA managing the facility for the 2016 season and would like to put the water temperature discretion in the contract.

Mr. Jones made a motion in favor of the YMCA managing the aquatic facility for the 2016 season; seconded by Mr. Brown. *On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 8, nays – 0, abstentions – 1 (Hammontree), absent – 0.*

Mr. Jones stated that last year, the YMCA had an issue with opening the facility after school started; however, they had already committed. The Board agreed that the facility could be closed after school started due to all of the staffing issues.

The Board also agreed to place a statement in the contract that the YMCA has the authority to not open the facility if the water temperature is too low and to leave it to the discretion of the YMCA.

Mr. Whalen asked why the facility is not open all day from 1:00 – 7:00.

Ms. Eiberger stated that the facility is closed from 5:00 – 6:00 to give the lifeguards a break as she does not have enough guards on staff to run two shifts.

Ms. Eiberger also stated that they have more families attend the night swim due to the cheaper rates and parents are off work. Closing for the hour saves approximately \$4,500 in payroll.

Mr. Whalen stated that he would like to see the facility stay open as other facilities in the area stay open all day.

Chairman Gimson stated that he likes it that the facility closed for the hour in the evening. It forces parents to come get their kids. Otherwise, the facility turns into a 'daycare' or sorts.

After discussion, the Board decided to keep the normal hours of 1:00pm – 5:00pm and 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Mr. Jones stated that he would like to add community outreach programs if possible.

Ms. Eiberger stated that on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, the facility holds lap swimming for adults. Ms. Eiberger stated that they cannot hold water swimming due to the issue of people being able to make it into the pool.

Ms. Eiberger also stated that last year they held summer school swim lessons and water safety for approximately 350 kids.

Chairman Gimson asked the contract to be modified and submitted to the YMCA as soon as possible so the approval process can begin.

C: School District Use of Park Facilities and Cost Recovery

Board members presented different ideas for cost recovery of park facilities.

Mr. Brown suggested an agreement between the school and Park Board to build new facilities and enter an agreement to pay for the new facilities.

Mr. Jones asked why the City should help the school district better their facilities if the Parks department cannot monetarily keep up with the ones that are currently owned.

Mr. Whalen proposed having a professional company take over the running of the concessions and also charge for practices, games and tournaments separately.

Many members of the Board were against hiring out the concessions as different school groups use the concessions as a fund raising event.

Ms. Hammontree stated that she would rather put a monetary amount on the usage of the facilities instead of hiring out the concessions. Having the school contribute to the usage of the facilities will for the school to move one way or another: They can continue using the current facilities and make a contribution or build their own new facilities.

Chairman Gimson stated that there needs to be a common goal between all entities to fix the current fields or build new ones that is cost effective for everyone.

Ms. Helmich stated that the school needs to contribute something.

Mr. Whalen stated that a plan needs to be put together and presented to the School Board.

Ms. Helmich stated that the school board needs to be approached to see what they are willing to contribute. The Park Board needs to decide on a minimum amount that they are willing to receive.

Chairman Gimson suggested putting together a committee of Park Board and School Board members to discuss the outstanding issues and come up with a plan.

The committee should be made up of three Park Board members, Dr. Matt Robinson and preferably two other school board members.

The committee will be responsible for coming up with a monetary amount to help maintain and reinvest in the Ball Parks. Mr. Bontrager and Mr. Garr will also be willing to attend the committee meetings.

Chairman Gimson will contact the school board so the committee can be formed.

Mr. Jones stated that the plan needs to state what the monies will be used for. I.e. update, build more fields, place money back into the fields, etc.

Park Board members that will be involved in the committee are Mr. Whalen, Mr. Brown and Ms. Sybert.

D: Park Valley Restroom Improvements

Discussions have been held to replace the current restroom structure at Park Valley and rebuild a new facility at the same location; however, only \$54,000 was budgeted this year for the project. The new proposal is to remodel the existing structure which would eliminate the current storage area which would allow for expanded restroom capacity.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the new proposed idea should allow for adequate restroom space and all of the plumbing and sewer is already there. Mr. Bontrager does not know if a new restroom facility can be built for \$54,000 including access, plumbing, dirt work, supplies and other items that would be needed.

Ms. Sybert asked how much the new facility at the Soccer complex cost.

Mr. Bontrager stated that most of the work was done in-house so it was cheaper construction. At this time, the City has smaller crews and doing the work in-house would not be possible for a few years.

Ms. Sybert stated that something needs to be done ASAP.

Mr. Brown stated that it was a good idea but worries about the storage issue.

Mr. Garr stated that a lot of the items in storage need to be cleaned out and thrown away.

Mr. Jones stated that he is for saving money and using the current building if needed.

Ms. Helmich asked how hard it would be to add on storage if needed.

Mr. Bontrager will look into that possibility.

E: Utility Vehicle Replacement

Mr. Garr stated one of the utility vehicles is currently requiring extensive repairs. Options have been explored for trading the unit in on a different one.

The 2010 Land Pride Trekker requires \$5,000 in repairs as the transmission has went out. This unit has been replaced twice. Earley Tractor has stated that this unit has no current trade-in value.

Mr. Garr presented the Board with different options for replacing the current unit.

A 3650 Bobcat which will allow for attachments on the front would cost approximately \$19,546. The cab would be an extra cost at \$6,000 and a snow blower would cost \$4,000.

Tool Cat which is a more heavy duty utility vehicle would cost approximately \$52,000 and the City has attachments that can be used.

The Parks Department also owns a tractor that can be traded in if the Tool Cat is purchased as it will no longer be needed.

Chairman Gimson asked about the repairs on the existing equipment and if there was a warranty.

Mr. Garr stated that there is a short term warranty; however, it breaks down after the warranty has expired.

Mr. Garr stated that no matter the route, he would want to purchase a snow blower attachment for either piece of equipment.

A budget adjustment will need to be made on all routes that can be taken.

Chairman Gimson stated that the items would need to be bid out.

Mr. Garr stated that he will gather more information and a trade in value for the tractor so the Board can make a better decision. He will bring the information back to the January meeting.

Mr. Jones stated that he would also like to see what equipment the City already owns that would fit on the tool cat.

Miscellaneous

None

Adjourn

Ms. Briggs made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Cople. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 8, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 1.

The next scheduled meeting of the Park Board will be at 6:00 on January 21, 2016 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:26 pm.

Chris Martin

Secretary Recorder

Cameron, MO 64429

*Bill Gimsen
1/28/16*