

**FILE COPY**

**Cameron Park Board Meeting**

May 3, 2016

6:00 pm

Cameron City Hall

**Members Present:**

Chairman – Bill Gimson

Al Briggs

Cory Brown

Wendy Copple

Ruth Hammontree

Jennifer Helmich

Jason Jones

Carrie Sybert

**Members Absent:**

Richard Whalen

**Others Attending:**

Drew Bontrager – Public Works Director

Annette Bauer – Cameron Newspaper

Steve Garr

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

**Approval of March 31, 2016 Minutes**

Correction to March 31, 2016 minutes. The minutes reflected that Carrie Sybert was in attendance and she was absent.

*Ms. Briggs made a motion to approve minutes of the March 31, 2016 meeting as corrected; seconded by Ms. Copple. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 8, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 1.*

**Public Participation**

Dr. Mark Carr, located at 1021 S. Chestnut, proposed a dog park idea to be located at Beavers Park. Dr. Carr stated that Beavers Park would be a prime location as the area is currently being underused and maintenance by the City. A dog park would allow the community to have a place to interact with their dogs.

Dr. Carr has completed extensive research on dog parks and stated that they are beneficial to communities and people of all ages can utilize the park. Dog parks also promote responsible pet ownership. Noise is not usually an issue as the dogs do not consider the space their *territory*.

At this time, the south area of Beavers Park is not dedicated to a specific use. It is recommended that dog parks have a 5 foot tall fence installed which would be the only *necessary* expense. This would allow a place where the dogs can be off their leash. Other optional expenses could include a sanitary section where pet owners could obtain waste disposal bags and dispose of waste appropriately.

A dog park would utilize the park in a positive way and hopefully increase the attendance and use of the area.

If the area becomes popular, other amenities for the dogs can be added at a later date.

It is recommended that a corner of the dog park area is specified for smaller dogs along with a larger area for big dogs. Citizens would be responsible for their own dog just like parents are responsible for their children at the parks.

Dr. Carr stated that the dog park would be a minimal cost, approximately \$3,000 for a fence, and would be beneficial to the community.

Chairman Gimson asked if there would be any issues with City Codes/Ordinances or if Planning & Zoning should be consulted before a decision is made.

Mr. Bontrager stated that there is not an issue with City Codes or Ordinances as a dog park falls within the bounds.

Dr. Carr suggested that there should be hours of operation for the dog park and a restriction of no children under 10 without adult supervision.

Chairman Gimson stated that a dog park is a good idea and asked how many feet the area at Beavers Park is.

Dr. Carr stated that the area is approximately 100 yard long and 35-40 yards wide.

Dr. Carr also stated that he would be willing to donate a park bench and dog sanitary station for the park.

Chairman Gimson suggested adding a water station to the Park like the one at the tennis courts.

Mr. Jones stated that he likes the idea of a dog park and fencing off a specific area. He would like to see how the park is utilized prior to purchasing amenities for the Park.

Mr. Garr stated that the area will be less likely to be vandalized (trash cans, sanitary station, etc.) as they will be located inside the fence.

Mr. Bontrager suggested that ribbon and matting be considered to be placed under the fence to help with mowing and trimming as it would make it less labor intensive.

Mr. Bontrager, Mr. Garr and Dr. Carr are to work together and look at fence pricing, water station, trash cans and anything else that would need to be placed in the dog park. They are to bring prices back to the next Park Board meeting for discussion.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

No comment.

#### **Director/Foreman's Report**

##### **Recreation Park Band Shell**

The Recreation Park Band Shell demolition is completed exception for the backfill which will be completed when the weather cooperates. Drainage into the neighbor's ditch will also be looked at when the backfill is completed.

Stan Hendrix of the Cameron Historical Society has asked for old pictures of the structure to go along with the display at the Historical Society. Mr. Hendrix suggested pictures of the grand opening or other band event.

##### **Arbor Day**

Arbor Day activities occurred on Friday, April 29, 2016. A Redmond Linden tree was planted with the Kindergarten class in Recreation Park. Moffet Nursery of St. Joseph donated the tree to the

Kindergarten Class. A plaque will be installed displaying the class year of 2028 along with the type of tree. In the future, Mr. Bontrager stated that they are going to try and bring the High School in on the celebration.

### **Board Member Terms**

All three Board member's whose terms expire at the end of May have agreed to serve another term; Jennifer Helmich, Jason Jones and Richard Whalen. Their intent to continue serving will be forwarded on to City Council at their next meeting for approval.

### **Soccer Complex**

A quote has been received from Curtis Construction for \$8,000 for the Soccer Complex addition. The cost includes utilizing city crews to pour the concrete slab and complete the painting. The Board gave Mr. Bontrager their consent to go ahead with the project.

### **Backstop**

The backstop from the field donated to the School District was sold for \$500.

### **Park Reservations**

Mr. Garr stated that at this time, if someone wants to reserve the Pavilion at McCorkle Park, they will need to call City Hall. They have had an issue of people thinking they are reserving the entire park; however, there are restrictions in place if the entire park is reserved due to insurance requirements.

Chairman Gimson asked if individuals would need to call City Hall to reserve Recreation Park.

Mr. Garr stated they would only need to call if they want to reserve the entire park.

Mr. Garr also stated that there was an issue with a reservation on one of the Recreation Park shelter houses. An individual had reserved the shelter house and when they arrived, someone was already using it. When asked to leave, they would not and the police became involved.

Since this accident, Mr. Garr stated that he has forwarded the links to the reservation schedule to the Police Department so they have a reference if conflicts arise.

Reservations will be posted at the Park in the future. Communications need to be made that anyone can use the shelter house but if it is reserved, the other party must leave.

### **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Garr asked where the field usage discussion stands with the School District.

Mr. Brown stated that the discussions are at a standstill at this time.

### **Old Business**

#### **A: Golf Club Request**

At previous meetings, the Golf Club made a request to the Board to help fund immediate repairs at the Golf Course. Main concerns brought before the Board included the bridge on hole #7 and most recently the spillway on hole #6 due to a sinkhole.

Julie Blackwell stated that since the previous meeting, the bridge hole #7 had dropped even more and extensive erosion has occurred on hole #6.

Ms. Blackwell reported that the Golf Club voted to go ahead with the repairs without funding as the issues were critical to fix due to the severity of the issue and the golf season is in full swing. Golf

tournaments begin in May and continue at this time for 7 consecutive weeks. The project to fix the bridge on hole #7 has been started and is almost completed.

Recent rains have also caused hole #17 to wash out. This issue has been added to their *repairs* list. Ms. Blackwell stated that the Golf Club Board has revised their repair/project list and the costs associated are greater than \$350,000.

The Golf Club has received donations and pledges and \$8,500 was raised at their benefit tournament.

Ms. Blackwell stated that a bid was received from RFD for \$12,950 to repair the bridge on hole #7. The Golf Club had discussions with Tim Hamilton, Code Inspector, and after discussions, another rail was added to the bridge. The initial bid from RFD did not include the addition of a second rail on the bridge.

The cost estimate for hole #6 from RFD was \$6,815. They plan to begin working on the sink hole/erosion issue any day.

Ms. Blackwell stated that the issue on hole #17 would have to be dealt with soon.

Totals for the two projects (hole #7 and hole #6) totals \$19,765 not including the second rail on the bridge on hole #7.

Ms. Blackwell stated that any assistance to the Golf Club for repairs would be appreciated to help remediate the immediate projects.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the City does not need to review bids or specs as long as they meet all building codes.

Ms. Hammontree stated that the City has not helped Golf Course maintain the grounds the way it should be maintained and the Park Board has an opportunity to make something better for the community.

Ms. Blackwell stated that the Golf Club is making progress by gathering donations and funding but there are urgent needs that need immediate attention.

Chairman Gimson suggested that the Board donate \$20,000 to the Golf Club.

*Ms. Hammontree made a motion to allocate \$20,000 to the Golf Club for existing improvements or future improvements to the Golf Course; seconded by Mr. Brown. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 8, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 1.*

Chairman Gimson stated that Board member Jones had brought up the idea of *park* projects on the Burlington area of the Golf Course. Chairman Gimson suggested getting together in the fall to discuss ideas.

Ms. Blackwell stated that the Golf Club Board had also discussed the possibility and that it is on their May agenda. She invited the Park Board members to attend and discuss ideas.

#### **B: Park Valley Restroom Improvements**

Mr. Bontrager provided drawings and cost estimates to the Board on the Park Valley Restroom improvements.

Mr. Bontrager stated that a new building would be an extra cost because of running electric, installing sidewalks, etc. and both drawings meet all ADA standards.

Due to the cost, the restroom improvement project will need to be bid out.

The drawings show that the building can be remodeled to improve the restroom area or a new building (additional) can be built to house the restroom area. If a new building is built, the current facility can be used for additional storage, locker rooms or something else that is needed. If the current facility is renovated, it will have all new electrical, plumbing, etc.

Cost estimates show that a renovation of the current structure would cost approximately \$80,677 and a new building would cost approximately \$156,392.

Mr. Brown stated that the renovation option is the best as it will be a nicer facility and it is within the budget.

Chairman Gimson stated that building an additional structure would take up needed space at the park.

*Ms. Briggs made a motion to move forward with the A-6 design and remodel the current facility; seconded by Ms. Hammontree. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 8, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 1.*

### **New Business**

#### **A: Aquatic Facility Funding**

At previous meetings, the Board has been presented many different options for funding. At this time, real estate tax revenue, donations or sales tax revenue are the only options for a new facility.

Available sales tax options include a 1/8 cent for Parks and a 1/8 cent tax for capital improvements. Both taxes would need to be passed to raise enough money to fund a new facility. Bonding of the sales tax revenue would allow a 20 year payback and would generate approximately \$2.1 million.

Mr. Brown state that repairs alone on the current facility are not affordable for the Board and that Council/Citizens will have to approve some kind of tax if anything is to be done to the facility.

Ms. Helmich stated that Council needs to be asked where they stand before the Park Board moves forward.

Chairman Gimson stated that band aids on the pool have been a waste of money and something needs to be done soon.

Ms. Hammontree stated that the current facility is not meeting the expectations of the community.

Mr. Bontrager stated that now would be a good idea to revisit the pool plan and gather public input to see what the community wants.

Ms. Helmich stated that she would like to see where the City Council stands before more time is put into the pool plan and future.

Mr. Jones asked what would happen if one of the 1/8 cent sales tax passes and the other one does not.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the bill can be written that if both taxes do not pass the City will not accept the other.

Chairman Gimson and Mr. Jones will get together and discuss a presentation to City Council on the current state of the facility.

At the next meeting, the Board will discuss the two 1/8 cent sales tax options and the plan to present to Council.

**Miscellaneous**

**High School Drama Department**

Mr. Jones stated that the drama students cleaned out their storage at Goodrich and found unopened stain containers. The Drama Department donated the stain to the City and it is being used to refinish picnic tables and other wood items.

**Adjourn**

*Ms. Briggs made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Copple. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 7, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 2.*

The next scheduled meeting of the Park Board will be at 6:00 on May 26, 2016 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07 pm.

*Chris Martin  
Secretary Recorder  
Cameron, MO 64429*

*Bill Jensen  
5/26/16*