

Cameron Park Board Meeting

June 23, 2016

6:00 pm

Cameron City Hall

Members Present:

Chairman – Bill Gimson
Al Briggs
Wendy Copple
Carrie Sybert
Richard Whalen

Members Absent:

Cory Brown
Jason Jones
Jennifer Helmich
Ruth Hammontree

Others Attending:

Drew Bontrager
Steve Garr
Councilmember Feighert
Dr. Matt Robinson – School District
Kristy Stover - School District
Annette Bauer – Cameron Newspaper

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

Approval of May 26, 2016 Minutes

Correction to May 26, 2016 minutes: Mr. Whalen brought to attention a correction on Page 4; last paragraph of B: Beavers Park – Dog Park Addition should say “Dr. Carr” instead of “the Board”.

Ms. Copple brought to attention a correction on Page 1; fourth underlined item is labeled “Old” Business and should be “New” Business.

Mr. Whalen made a motion to approve minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting as corrected; seconded by Ms. Briggs. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 5, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 4.

Public Participation

Dr. Mark Carr, located at 1021 S. Chestnut, presented the Board with two proposals he secured on fencing for the proposed Beavers Park dog park area. The proposals were from Workman Fencing & Construction total materials and labor \$13,985; and Larry Shannon for total materials and labor \$12,870. There was a discussion between the differences between the two bids and the gauge of the wire mesh.

Dr. Carr recommended not installing the previously discussed amenities and only installing the fence, bench and pet waste cleanup station at this time, or as a phase I. Dr. Carr stated he would donate the money for the pet waste cleanup station and the bench. Dr. Carr further recommended adding additional lineal feet of fence to gain a bigger overall area.

Mr. Bontrager recommended installing some type of footing under the fence to reduce maintenance issues and costs.

Ms. Copple made a motion to add money to next fiscal year’s budget for the creation and purchase of approximately 1,170 lineal feet of fence for a dog park at Beavers Park; seconded by Mr. Whalen. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 5, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 4.

Treasurer's Report

No comment.

Director/Foreman's Report

Night Disc Golf Tournaments

At a recent Council Meeting, Councilmember Feighert proposed the idea of allowing night disc golf tournaments at Recreation Park. Staff believes this is possible and good idea to consider allowing. Main concern is ditches and no lighting. However, there should be enough surrounding light. Most events should be complete by the regular park closing hours. Parks would only need to turn off the lights for a few hours during the event and they use their own glow sticks and flashlights. The Board was in favor and recommended when there is more details from the event organizers to contact staff.

Pool Slide

The fiberglass specialist for the water slide was on-site last week to complete the inspection and should have a final report soon. Mr. Bontrager reported the slide is in overall decent condition, but as to be expected for the age of the structure there are areas in need of repair.

Park Vandalism

Recently there has been a rise in vandalism at different parks. There was discussion of some of the vandalism and there is great video of all of the incidents. The Police Department is currently investigating the incidents and do plan to press charges.

Park & Field Usage

Mr. Garr reported on July 2 there will be a Camp Quality Volleyball Tournament. There are also some baseball tournaments on-going.

Board discussed the different 4th of July activities in the parks. Mr. Whalen inquired if there was a possibility of turning off the lights in Recreation Park.

New Business

School Board discussion on usage of City Ball Fields

Chairman Gimson stated at the last meeting the Board invited the School Board and Staff to attend this meeting to discuss their use of the park Ballfields. Present was Dr. Robinson and Kristy Stover.

Mr. Whalen started the discussion with trying to figure out a way to work with the School District to combine resources to improve the current facility. Dr. Robinson agreed the ballfields need improvements as they can't host any District events or large tournaments at this facility. However, he doesn't want to be the only entity contributing. He stated they would be interested in participating in a couple different ways such as an annual fee, involvement in other projects, staffing for preparation of fields, fertilization, trimming or mowing during their seasons.

Discussion on no matter how much money and improvements are made, the area is not large enough to build a field that is actually large enough to meet high school baseball regulation sizes.

Chairman Gimson brought the idea of the Parks and the City working with the School District to build just one new baseball and softball field to be owned and maintained by the District. This would leave the current fields for recreational use. Gimson further inquired if the District could utilize their funding sources,

such as a levy, to fund the capital construction of the new field or fields and the Parks could then contribute financially to help pay the capital down.

Dr. Robinson replied it would be nice to for the District to have their own fields, but then they would have to be the ones to go to the voters. They just built a new school and are close to bonding capacity. They need more classroom space over more field space. There is also need for a new 600-7000 seat performing arts center, or a new high school as one of their next projects.

Mr. Whalen asked if the District had any grant funding opportunities the parks would not have as an option. Dr. Robinson stated most of those types of grants are awarded to other communities based on a higher disadvantaged population, or higher free and reduced lunch.

Chairman Gimson stated there are two parts of the agreement. The first is the usage and what the District expects for the fields to be ready for use and what the Parks expect from the District when they use the facilities.

Mr. Whalen agreed there needs to be a written agreement between the District and the Parks for usage, but also needs to be a long term plan on how the two entities can partner to enhance the current facilities and even possibly continue planning for new fields and the financing.

Mr. Garr suggested long terms plans are great, but just need to focus on the short term issues such as sharing the cost of materials and rebuilding fields.

Chairman Gimson discussed the committee could meet with staff to determine the usage expectations of both parks and the District.

Mr. Bontrager suggested starting with a draft outline of the usage expectations for the Board to review and then submitting to the District for their review and comments, and the District to do the same for their usage expectations and present to the Parks for review before holding a meeting.

Chairman Gimson instructed the committee to meet with staff to determine the usage expectations of both parks and the District.

Mr. Whalen asked Dr. Robinson if the District would look at sharing in the major capital project costs in addition to the daily expenses. Dr. Robinson replied it is something he would be willing to present to his Board.

Chairman Gimson mentioned there are plans to tentatively start restrooms in August. Board said need to work with the District to ensure that there are adequate facilities for both daily use and large tournament use.

Mr. Bontrager suggested amending the Agenda to move the Old Business agenda item; Funding Options for New/Renovated Aquatic Center & Ballfields while the District representatives were still at the meeting.

Old Business

Funding Options for New/Renovated Aquatic Center & Ballfields

Mr. Bontrager reported at the last meeting the Board inquired if the parks could still utilize the Economic Development Sales Tax. He stated he had visited with the City Manager who said it is possible as long as there is an economic development component. The City Manager will coordinate a meeting with the respective boards and committees involved to discuss options.

Chairman Gimson recapped the known options for funding. The options explored included the Economic Development Sales Tax, massive donations, grants the remaining Capital and Storm Water and/or Parks Sales Tax and working with the School District.

Chairman Gimson tabled the Old Business and went to back to Agenda order.

New Business

Lease and Operations of Miniature Golf and Batting Cages

Mr. Bontrager reported they were not able to get into the area to do a thorough evaluation and condition assessment as the area is extremely overgrown. They have general costs associated with some general information such as carpeting and installation. However, until the area is cleaned up won't be able to get solid numbers on square footage replacements.

Mr. Bontrager had visited with Councilmember Feighert about posting something requesting and utilizing volunteers to clean up, trim and remove the overgrowth. This would allow the Park Board to really asses how much capital it would take to get it running. He also stated he visited with the owner, Dan Earley, who is alright with this idea.

Mr. Bontrager presented ideas on the management of the facility. Mr. Whalen inquired if the Bounce was open yet and would be an option for management. Mr. Bontrager stated he visited with Dan Earley and not sure if this would be an option. Mr. Bontrager did suggest letting different civic organizations, clubs, churches, school activities and clubs run the facility as a fund raiser. The Park Board would keep a percentage to offset operating costs such as utilities and would still be involved in setting the hours, rates and reserving which organization operated each weekend.

Mr. Bontrager stated this would all be dependent on how much capital it will take to make the facility operational. They have done research on pitching machines currently there and they are not worth repairing. There are less expensive machines could purchase and start with only one to see how often they are utilized before further investments on more expensive ones. Another idea was proposed to get regular pitching machines and rent the cages out to teams.

Mr. Bontrager asked if the Board is still amenable to the idea of exploring participation with the miniature golf area, in some facet, whether that is initial capital, maintenance or management he would like to move forward with Councilmember Feighert's assistance in organizing volunteers to cleanup. The Board consensus was to move forward with this plan.

FY 2016-17 Budget

- Capital Budget Items:
- \$15,000 – Field 1. Plus \$5,000 for drainage, for a total of \$20,000
- \$35,000 – New Parks Truck. Mr. Whalen asked for an update on current vehicle. Board explored this option last year and with total mileage and repair costs it was decided to keep the current one. Staff explained there was an accident and the repairs cost more than the value of the truck.
- Added fence for Dog Park tonight. Total cost unknown since hasn't seen the park and layout. Also expect there will be other incidental costs.
- Park Valley Restroom Improvements should take at the end of this fiscal year, but won't be completed until next fiscal year.

- Master Plan – Would be about \$20,000 yet needed for the full planning the Board requested. Had budgeted and started this process a couple years ago, but became confused with the ballot issue. Mr. Garr added a master plan would be a great tool for capital items and requests for new projects. Mr. Bontrager agreed, but added need to be careful with total expenditures and maintaining minimum fund reserve set by City Council. Plus additional expenses such as pool.
No approval was needed at this point, it will just go on the budget and when the time comes a new agreement will be approved by Board. In the mean time, research will be conducted to find the current pricing of a master plan.
- Basketball Courts - \$40,000 if contract all out, but could look at utilizing city crews for some of the work.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Whalen inquired about the attendance policy. The policy has been if a member misses three consecutive, unexcused meetings they'll be asked to resign.

Mr. Whalen asked if Chairman Gimson had an opportunity to look at other schools and parks. He stated he did look at other fields, such as Lawson and Polo. He stated they make about \$70,000-\$80,000 plus two employees. They are smaller than Cameron and have nice new fields and more facilities. He believes that the advertising on the fence of the ball fields has a lot to do with the funding for those facilities. He suggested that the board look into selling some advertising.

Adjourn

Ms. Briggs made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Copple. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 5, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 4.

The next scheduled meeting of the Park Board will be at 6:00 on July 28, 2016 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

Minutes - Kaytlyn Barnes

Bill Gimson
1/26/17