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Cameron Park Board Meeting

March 22, 2012

6:00 pm

Cameron City Hall

Members Present:

Chairman Bill Gimson

Al Briggs

Matt Jameson

Jason Jones

Krista Helton

Michael Teegarden

Members Absent:

Rob Balliett

Jennifer Helmich

Amy Ford

Others Attending:

Drew Bontrager, Public Works Director

Steve Garr, Parks Director

Mark Gaugh – City Manager

Chris Johnson, Cameron Citizen Observer

Frank Buck – Mayor/City Council

David Fry – City Councilmember

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

Approval of December Minutes

Ms. Helton made a motion to approve minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting; seconded by Ms. Briggs. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 6, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 3.

Public Participation

Reservoir #2 Trail

City Manager Mark Gaugh addressed the Board and proposed the idea of the Park Board working with the City in developing a trail system around Reservoir #2. To start out with, the trail would be a wood chip trail. The improvements would be divided up into stages with the first stage being the wood chip trail. Mr. Gaugh would like the Board to discuss providing the materials needed and the City would supply the workers and also ongoing maintenance. The Boy Scouts have already expressed interest in helping with the trail and future improvements which may include a shelter house and bridges across spillways.

The tentative plan is to place a parking lot at the beginning of the trail off McElwain Drive. At this time, there are no plans for a restroom

Chairman Gimson asked if grants have been applied for to help with the cost.

Mr. Gaugh stated that the Grant applied for in the past was not awarded but the City is continuing to apply for other grants.

Recreation Park

Mr. Gaugh also asked the Board to consider improving the lighting at Recreation Park. Currently the park has standard wood pole lighting. As a start, the suggestion is to make the improvements at the entrance of the park.

Mr. Gaugh spoke with Jay Erdman, Electric Superintendent, and he stated that there are many options for lighting. The City can go with decorative lighting which would improve the aesthetics but would be costly or metal pole lighting which is what is installed along the streets. LED lighting is also a possibility and would be more eco-friendly. The City crews can install the lighting.

The Board would like to expand the lighting throughout the park if possible.

Mr. Gaugh stated that the electric department would purchase the poles/lighting and the Park Board would only be responsible for paying the monthly usage.

Mr. Gaugh suggested that the Board draw up a sketch as to what they would like and bring it back for discussion.

Other

Mayor Frank Buck addressed the Board and stated that lighting up Recreation Park is a good idea and would possibly increase the usage at the park for Frisbee golf after dark. The improvements may also decrease the vandalism at the park.

Mr. Buck also stated that a walking trail at Reservoir #2 is a good idea and would be a step in improving the City.

Treasury Report

Drew Bontrager presented the Revenue & Expense Report and stated that 6 months of the fiscal year has passed. There have been minimal expenses through the winter months. The Board approved the report.

Director/Foreman Report

Earl Park Expansion

With the mild winter, work on Earl Park was able to continue in January. The anticipated completion date is in April and if all goes as planned the expansion should come in under budget.

Turf Maintenance

An agreement was entered into with Lawns Unlimited for turf maintenance on both McCorkle Park and the Soccer Complex.

Summer Help

An advertisement was ran in the paper the week of March 19th for public works summer help. Mr. Garr stated that Doug Newell and Jeff Rooney will be returning this year to help out with tournaments and miscellaneous things that may need to be done.

Reservoir

Mr. Bontrager stated that Phase 1 at the reservoir would be to clear the underbrush and smooth out some of the minor ditches and potholes on the 'suggested' trail path. The goal is to stay away from bridges at this time because of the cost and possible safety concerns.

The future goal is to make the trail accessible to public safety vehicles in case there is ever an accident on the trail.

Mr. Bontrager stated that the tentative "plan" for Phase 1 is to hike to a picnic spot.

Mr. Jones suggested that a few areas around the water need to be cleaned out so families and individuals can fish without debris and other obstacles in the way.

Boy Scout Project

Mr. Garr met with Delvin Mulcahy about his Boy Scout project. Delvin was initially going to clear trees at the reservoir but is now going to install concrete pads at the Frisbee golf course. Delvin will start and finish one pad before he moves on to the next.

Mr. Garr stated that there are already 2 clubs interested in having a disk golf tournament this summer.

Mr. Garr will work on scheduling. He stated that at this time there is no formal booking procedure.

School Use of Ball Fields

Mr. Bontrager stated that in the past, there has been a verbal agreement with the School District for the use of the ball fields and other City facilities.

Mr. Bontrager is looking into developing a written agreement with the School District. A written agreement would make the agreement more official and keep both sides accountable for clean-up and repairs.

Miscellaneous

The old parks/maintenance building was demolished this winter by city crews.

Steve Garr is now a certified playground instructor. This certification is good for 3 years.

Old Business

Swimming Pool – YMCA Pool Management Agreement

There have been no major changes to the Lease Agreement with the YMCA.

Mary Jo Eiberger came up with a solution for the accountability on attendance. ID cards with barcodes will be issued to individuals and families that purchase a summer pass. The ID cards will be scanned when they enter the pool and the attendance entered directly into the computer. This will make the pool employees more accountable with attendance.

Mr. Jones asked about individuals who pay per day.

Mr. Bontrager stated that there will be a generic scan for pay per day attendees.

The City has old computers that will be available for use at the pool. A contract will be worked out with Century Link for internet usage.

Ms. Briggs made a motion to approve the 2012 lease agreement with the YMCA; seconded by Mr. Jones. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 6, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 3.

The lease agreement will go to City Council in April for approval.

Mr. Bontrager stated that within the next few weeks, weather permitting, the pool will have the paint touched-up.

New Business

Arbor Day

To help celebrate Arbor Day, on Friday, April 13th the City and the Missouri Department of Conservation will plant a tree with the Parkview Elementary Kindergarten class in Kelsey Park. Bob Dorton Tree Services of Cameron is donating a White Oak tree. The Kindergarten class will help the City Crew plant the tree and a plaque will be displayed with the tree. Each year the class will be taken back to their tree to learn about Arbor Day and tree care. The class will also have their picture taken.

Board Member Terms

The terms of Bill Gimson, Krista Helton and Matt Jameson will expire this year. Mr. Gimson and Mr. Jameson expressed their interest of continuing their appointment. Ms. Helton stated that at this time she would like to step down from the Board in June but enjoyed her time on the Board.

Mr. Bontrager will begin advertising the open position in the Newspaper.

Miscellaneous

In order to be within ADA compliance, a pool lift will be installed at the pool before it is opened.

The City is looking into a compliance audit to make sure they are following the ADA laws.

Workshop – Future Park Planning

After meeting with the School District, Mr. Gimson and Mr. Bontrager found out that the school is no longer interested with the 10 acres in Park Valley. Right now the School District is in the process of future school planning.

Since the school is not interested in the 10 Acres, the acreage is now available to develop ball fields if desired.

Mr. Gimson stated that funds need to be put back into the ball park facilities. They are currently in disrepair and need cleaned-up and updated.

A baseball field, not a softball field, needs to be made. There are also parking issues and the fields could use better bathroom facilities.

The Board brought up the issue that there has never been a comprehensive park plan. The community should be a large driving factor in future developments. Before plans are made, the needs and wants of the community should be researched. Most parks programs have master plans.

As mentioned in previous meetings, Cameron is undersized in park space. However, before new land is purchased, the Board and community needs to decide what the best use of it would be.

Mr. Gimson stated that the Board should look at how the City can become ADA compliant. The City also needs to have the funds to maintain and run the current facilities and park ground.

Mr. Gimson also stated that an evaluation should be complete to see what the City needs and/or wants. The evaluation should also include what needs to do in order to be ADA compliant.

Mr. Jones stated that he would like to see a survey of the community to determine what improvements or needs they would like to see.

The Board agreed that a professional evaluation of the City's park system should be completed and a survey developed based off the recommendations.

Mr. Bontrager estimated that the cost for a full professional evaluation would cost approximately \$60,000. To start out with, Mr. Bontrager believes that the City could get an acceptable analysis for \$30,000.

Mr. Bontrager will put together parameters that the Board is looking towards for park improvements. He will bring a list of different firms to the April meeting for discussion.

The Board would like to look towards the long term goals of the City Park's system and also complete short-term projects at the same time.

The Board agreed that the community should be included as much as possible.

Mr. Jones asked about the old band shelter by the swimming pool. He was concerned with the disrepair and thought it might be of some use if cleaned up or if it had no use be torn down and the area used for something else.

Mr. Buck stated that he thought the shelter was originally donated for someone. He will do some research and see if there is any significance to the building. If not, the space can always be used for something else.

Tree Survey

The Board asked Mr. Bontrager about the tree survey that was recently completed. Mr. Bontrager stated that he will bring the finding to the April Park Board meeting.

Adjourn

Chairman Gimson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Helton. On voice vote the motion carries as follows: ayes – 6, nays – 0, abstentions – 0, absent – 3.

Next meeting of the Park Board will be April 26, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.

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

*Bill Gimson
5/3/12*