

MINUTES
Yankton Park Advisory Board
September 8, 2015
Technical Education Center, 1200 West 21st Street

The meeting of the Park Advisory Board (PAB) was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Routine Business

A. Roll Call

1. Present: Lola Harens, Craig Sommer, Darcie Briggs, Dave Spencer, Tom Nelson, Carson Schott, Bryan Schoenfelder
2. Absent:
3. Also present: Amy Nelson, City Manager, Todd Larson, Director of Parks and Recreation, Chasity McHenry, Department Secretary

B. Consideration of August 3, 2015 Minutes

1. Briggs motioned to approve minutes, Harens seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

C. Public Appearances – Steve Pietila

II. Old Business

A. None

III. New Business

- A. Sertoma Youth Baseball- Would like to replace the current shed at Sertoma Park North with a larger wood shed to be used for storage. Currently the youth baseball group rents storage space for storage. Steve Pietila gave the following report. Four age divisions from 5 years up to 13 years. 35 teams. 350 children. 80-90 volunteers. Said the shed would be paid in full by Sertoma Youth Baseball and Sertoma Club. 24' x 24' x 10' tall. Will need electricity for lights on inside and security light on outside. PAB recommendation for the City Commission would be to approve the building project at Sertoma Park with no cost to the City. Tom Nelson motion, Darcy Briggs second. Recommendation passed 7-0.
- B. Meridian Bridge Plaza- Please find the letter to the City Commissioners sent from Amy Nelson in regards to the fountain “fixes” at the plaza on the second page of the minutes. Phase 1 punch list items are mostly completed except for having the fountain flow in an acceptable manner, the LED lights on spray jets working with the controller in the vault, the lights in the fountain epoxied down, and light shields installed on the west side of the bollards (theses shields are on order). Phase 2 is progressing slowly as the parks department is short one full-time employee and some other seasonal work items must be completed in the coming weeks.
- C. RR underpass for Auld-Brokaw trail west of Locust and north of 15th Street- Installation of the concrete trail underpass is complete. Two items remaining on the project include 1) installing the fence barrier/protection system which will be on both sides of the trail and above the trail in the railroad’s right-of-way which extends 50’ east and west from the middle of the tracks. There was a change order on how the fence will be installed and this has caused approximately a four to six week delay as materials are fabricated. Item 2) Clean-up of the entire construction area. The hope is to have the trail open in the beginning of October. People have riding or walking around the trail closed signs and barriers and utilizing the completed trail section.
- D. West City Limits Road trail project- City is applying for an additional TAP grant to help pay for Phase 2 and/or Phase 3 of the West City Limits Road trail project. Remember, the City

has been funded \$400,000 for Phase 1 which is 31st Street sidewalk/trail from Wal-Mart to West City Limits Road. The grants request will be for City paying 30% of the remaining project costs as the match for both phases. The City will be applying for TAP funds to do Phase 2 as a standalone project and at the same time also apply for TAP funds to do Phase 3 as a standalone project. There was a discussion also about having sidewalks installed along Broadway in areas where there are no sidewalks currently. Amy Nelson informed the board that the City needs to develop a plan to evaluate all community areas in an inventory of sidewalks which would include a lack of sidewalks and sidewalks in disrepair. Then a funding plan would need to be created to have an incentive program for property owners to help pay for the costs of installing or repairing sidewalks.

- E. Batting cage upgrades at Sertoma Park south- Mount Marty Baseball team community service project. Andy Bernatow is going to approach all the different user groups of the fields at Sertoma to help in funding the batting cage upgrades.
- F. Riverside Park-The Parks Department has applied for a \$10,000 Community Kickstarter grant from The Wellmark Foundation in regards to the boundless play area budgeted for 2017 in Riverside Park. This is the type of grant that has to have public participation in the form of on-line voting to determine the 35 winners in Iowa and South Dakota. The voting takes place September 23 through October 7.
- G. Discussion of sports facilities and aquatics facilities- Improvements with funding from an opt-out or budgeted CIP funds. The board feels there will be more momentum if more groups than just one are involved for the opt-out option. There needs to be a re-addressing of current facilities including spectator areas and the need for artificial turf versus natural grass fields. When visiting with selected groups again make sure the groups understand the difference between “need” and “want.” The PAB wants to focus on outdoor activities. The PAB wants to help foster more communication between sports groups to help them be more cooperative with all improvement ideas. The Stockwell Plan was distributed to the PAB and two copies were taken by members. Quality-of-life opt-out could include the outdoor pool, library, and installing artificial turf on four multi-use fields. The preliminary plan moving forward would be 1) Meet with baseball and softball and have a PAB member speak as representative of these groups to the City Commission. Meet with soccer and football and have a PAB member speak as representative of these groups to the City Commission. Also speak with swimming and hockey for outdoor facilities. 2) Assemble the list of needs. 4) Bring list to PAB meeting in October and discuss. 5) Go to City Commission and ask for support for these quality-of-life improvements. Start talking economic impact for the community when these improvements are completed. Darcy, Dave, and Carson will speak with football and soccer. Brian, Tom, and Lola will speak with baseball and softball.
- H. General Discussion-

IV. Other Business

- A. Commission Information Memorandums. Enclosed were the prior months CIM's to assist the PAB members on Department activities. (2 attachments)
- B. Next Meeting: Monday, October 5, 2015

V. Adjourn

- A. Schott motioned and Harens seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Letter from Amy Nelson to City Commissioners

Commissioners,

Yesterday (8/27/15) Ross, Todd and I met with RDG and Welfl Construction to discuss the remaining punch list items associated with the Meridian Bridge Plaza and our displeasure with the fountain.

Both Welfl and RDG concurred with our thoughts about the fountain and agreed that in its current condition, the fountain is not operating according to desired design. Welfl and RDG have developed a number of solutions to first better understand and then resolve the issue.

First, elevations will be shot on the plaza concrete and fountain to determine whether or not the concrete and fountain are level. If the fountain is level, solutions will be focused on spillage of water and water flow. Some of the ideas include:

- Inserting an additional structure in the fountain bed to raise the water level
- Installing angle-iron on the inside lip of the fountain bed to guide water up and over the top course of masonry
- Addressing the spacing of the joints on concrete blocks, and if necessary
- Removing the top course of block and reshaping the blocks to lower the top course enough to guide water up and over the block to allow for the "cascading effect" that was designed.

One or more of these solutions may be employed. All parties are working to get the fountain flowing the way it was intended yet this fall.

There were also a number of minor "punch list" items the parties are working through. Depending on availability of materials, the extent to which measures have to be taken and weather, a very few of these issues may or may not be resolved before we need to winterize the plaza.

Ross and I also have had several passionate discussions about payment. Ross is correct that legally according to our contract and according to our own ordinances we must pay requests for work completed. On our next schedule of bills there will be payment to Welfl and RDG for work completed. That said, however, the contract includes sufficient retainage. As such, we will withhold approximately \$26,000 to \$30,000 from the contract as retainage until we are satisfied with the project.

Thank you for all of your comments and ideas. It will be important as we move forward that we allow for the process set forth in our contract to reach resolve on this issue. If the matter is not resolved, Ross will take the appropriate legal action.

I will ask that Todd also forward this email to the Parks Advisory Board as they have been questioning the status of the fountain.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.