

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Mike made the motion to add Parks and Trails Map to the agenda. Marnie seconded, and the motion carried to approve the agenda with the change.

Present: Tom Schaffer, Mike Lindquist, Marnie Lucas, Jonathon Werth, Sara Berres

Also present: Dale Graunke, Mayor; Jon Sutherland, Council Liaison; Phil Kern, City Administrator; Makenzie Krause, Recorder

Not present: Sean Peterson, Dan Menk

3. Minutes

Jonathon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22nd meeting and was seconded by Sara; motion carried.

4. Order of Business

A. Adopt a Park

Because Dan Menk was not present to discuss the topic, it was moved to the next meeting.

B. Playground Materials

Makenzie gave the update on the playground materials. After talking with a representative from Landscape Structures, she learned that Landscape is no longer using the rubber tire materials to fill their playgrounds, but not because of any concerns of hazards. Rather, the material is no longer used because of its cost. Landscape had no concerns as to its safety, and other playground companies share similar opinions. Tom also did research and did not find any hazards related to the material. Jonathon agreed and pointed out that, while he did see that 3 federal agencies were doing research on it, they wouldn't know results until the end of the year. At this point though, they were not concerned. Mike also commented that, if there were dangers, they likely would have appeared by now. With any new material, there will be different opinions.

C. Splash Pad

Phil presented new information regarding the splash pad. Some of the 4th of July activities, as

well as an Eagle Scout horseshoe pit will be displaced. The splash pad will move the tent used for the 4th of July dance. The cement pad will be torn up and replaced with a new base. The pad itself will lie perpendicular to 3rd Street. Phil also brought up that, along with the splash pad, there was a possibility of building a pavilion and tent structure directly north of the pad. This pavilion could have multiple uses beyond servicing the splash pad.

Landscape Structures would build the pavilion in addition to the splash pad, and it is willing to work with the 4th of July committee to design it according to the committee's needs. There would be a variety of different uses for this pavilion, and it would likely pay itself off because the 4th of July committee would not have to deal with the expense of renting and putting up the tent.

The loss of concession space due to the splash pad will, in the long run, improve the concession accessibility in the area.

The cost for the splash pad began at \$280,000. There are additional costs as city staff have looked into everything that would be changed along with the splash pad. These costs include site work and accessories, which would cost approximately \$160,000, bringing the total to \$440,000.

City staff have been looking into numerous options for fundraising. The City will not be raising taxes to pay for the splash pad. The Jaycees, the Liquor Store, and the GFWC will all be donating to this project. The GFWC is especially excited for this project and will do outreach to other groups to pay for funds.

Dale commented that the numbers are not solid, and that it might take longer to pay off the pavilion than it may be expected.

Phil then pointed out that the City is still about \$60,000 short of where it wants to be in terms of funding. The city engineer may be able to shift the design and whittle it down to cut the remaining costs. Following this remark, he asked the commission for comments or questions.

Dale replied that part of the original concern occurred because the option of moving the pad had not come up. Phil added that alterations could be made to make more room for audiences at the 4th as well.

Mike asked about what type of shade structure would be built and which materials would be utilized. Phil replied that it could be a hard surface that would last through weather, but that Landscape Structures is likely leaning towards a fabric material. Landscape guaranteed that it would cost less than \$40,000. The City has the benefit of being their guinea pig, so they will readily work with the City. They want to create something that would have electricity and could be used year-round, however, those are the most details that we have.

Phil moved on and noted that the engineer was down at the park that day and brought up the fact that, since the mechanical building is twice the size of what it needs to be, the bathrooms could easily be opened up and connected to the splash pad.

Jon Sutherland asked if there were existing designs for the concession stands. Phil replied that they were not complete and that they were a part of a separate project with different funding.

Mike brought up the idea that it would be good to have a community open house regarding the splash pad. The group agreed and decided that it should take place during the next meeting.

Tom recommended fencing both pieces to help control admission. Phil agreed, but pointed out that fencing would have to be considerate of 4th of July activities. Dale thought it would be possible to install a fence that would be easily removed.

Tom concurred and brought up the idea of fabric versus solid fencing. Phil then commented that the City should be respectful of Landscape's offer and open to their design ideas. The City cannot decide anything until it also has support of the 4th of July committee. Jon replied that, whatever it is, it has to be waterproof.

Jon Sutherland shifted the topic to potential uses of the splash pad and asked about possibilities regarding its use as an ice rink. If the City really wanted to invest in it, cooling equipment under the pavilion would be beneficial as well. Nevertheless, cost must also be remembered as well.

Phil replied that there are always options. There are groups that would want rinks, and the City could ask them to help with funding. That, however, wouldn't satisfy the citizens wanting to use the rink for free skating.

Tom asked if the City can borrow against pledges, to which Phil replied no. The City can, however, utilize reserved funds.

Phil then transitioned to talk about annual costs. The total annual costs, which would cover chemicals, water, electricity, maintenance, and staffing, would range between \$24,000-\$30,000. The City would charge entry to help offset these costs. It would be cheaper for residents, but it is likely that multiple residents from neighboring communities will visit it as well.

Marnie asked about the added costs for operations, to which Phil replied that there is a chance that Community Ed would be willing to take care of scheduling workers to manage the pad.

Tom asked if there is a consensus that the Park and Recreation committee is behind this project. Mike responded by asking about the timeline. Phil replied that it would begin in May, need to be approved by the Council meeting in June, hopefully begin construction on July 5th, and, in a best-case scenario, open by the beginning of September.

The commission concluded this portion of the discussion by opting to host an open house following the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

D. Litfin Site

Tom asked for this item to be on the agenda because he believed that it is up to the commission to come up with ideas for the site usage. After a lot of thought, he said he wanted to inquire about using the area as a municipal campground. It would help make Delano a destination and it would make a profit.

Dale commented that the 4th of July committee is looking to make that area the adult area for bands, and it could potentially host much bigger bands for the 4th. Mike noted as well that Lake Rebecca was looking to add some camping. Also, campers may have some concerns with the smells being emitted from the treatment facility across the street.

Marnie asked if there are there any trails in the area, and Phil replied that, while there aren't any now, there likely could be. The township wants to put in a park and a canoe park on 30, which could mean that trails would extend that direction.

Phil also noted that the area that is presently disturbed is also prone to flooding, and the City can't expand much past what has already been done without affecting the river.

Jonathon thought the area might be good for frisbee golf since it would be relatively unaffected by flooding issues. Tom liked that idea and commented that, since the area is so big, there could be multiple uses for it.

Phil offered to put together a camp ground layout, to which Mike replied that he wanted to see plans regarding Lake Rebecca's future.

Dale wanted the commission to work with other entities looking to use the site as well.

E. Community Garden

Phil informed the commission that the community garden began with the Arts and Culture Council. That group would prepare it and the City would administer plots. The volunteers who began this project are no longer around or interested. The City has been receiving calls and still hasn't heard anything about whether or not someone was going to manage the garden. The City does not have the capabilities to maintain the garden, and it would be \$3-7,000 to have Public Works work on it. He then asked the commission if the garden is something that the group wants to prioritize and bring to Council.

Tom asked how many people use it, and Phil replied that, in the high years, it was in the 20's, while the low years were in the 10's.

Mike put out the idea that the City continues to assign spots, but that the people utilizing the spots are the ones who must till and maintain them.

Phil thought that this option could be a possibility, especially since the garden is sectioned off by wood chip plants that were put in last year.

Mike commented that the City could improve the markings, but that it needn't do more. People

utilizing the plots can maintain them.

Jon Sutherland commented that it might be a good idea to waive the fee and just let them sign up.

Mike made a motion to use this model and Sara seconded; motion carried.

5. Other Business

A. Parks and Trails Map

Phil pointed out that, 5 or 6 years ago, the City updated the park and trails map. The maps are located everywhere throughout town. Downtown groups want to improve downtown area, and they have more interactive trail maps with several features. They asked the City to modify these trail maps, which they would sponsor. These maps will be brought up at the next meeting.

Mike commented that there will be similar signs being put up at the schools, so it is important that they all match up.

6. Adjournment

Mike motioned to adjourn, Tom seconded; adjourned at 6:25.