

**PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

Members Present: Craig Kittel, Jon Hailey, Tania Strawn, Brian Schroeder, Christine Melby, and Frank Norton

Members Absent: Student Representative James Elkin, and Joe Ard

Others Present: David Garrett, Darian Blattner, David Green, Ken House, Jeremiah Wendt, Noah Wiedenfeld, Michael Mroz, and Marie Bannink

Jon Hailey moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

Jon Hailey moved to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

Public Business Items

None

Unfinished Business

Skate Park Design/Fundraising:

Michael Mroz was introduced to the board. Jeremiah Wendt updated the board on the meeting of the Friends of the Skate Park. There was discussion with liability on purchasing used equipment and having the shop classes helping with assembling of ramps/jumps. Noah and Michael will be taking the lead on the skate park design. Michael explained how the ramps in Wabasha were made with treated wood and covered with skatelite. Motion was made by Christine Melby to accept the following recommendations from the Friends of the Skate Park:

- Funding levels should be revised as follows (changes are highlighted):
 - Naming Rights = 50% of estimated project cost
 - Platinum = \$20,000 - <50% of estimated project cost
 - Gold = \$5,000 - \$19,999
 - Silver = \$500 - \$4,999
 - Bronze = \$100 - \$499
 - Stakeholder = \$1-\$99

There was discussion about changing the names of the levels, but the consensus of the group was to keep the names as proposed.

- Donors should be recognized on a sign that will be placed at the skate park, facing the parking lot to the north. This sign will list donors by level, with the upper levels receiving a larger font/area for recognition. Staff can work on a design for this sign, and bring it back to the Friends group and Park Board for approval.
- Fundraising efforts should continue through contacts with local businesses and foundations including Bremer, RCU, Westfields, 3M, Wal-Mart, and the Chamber of Commerce. These contacts will be divided among the Friends group.
- A banner should be placed on site facing STH 64 that denotes the “Future Site of the New Richmond Skatepark”.
- The design of the park should be modified to wood ramps instead of steel to realize a cost savings of nearly \$100,000. This would bring the total project estimate to approximately \$116,000.
- Staff should pursue used equipment in good condition, if it is available.

- Staff should contact the school district to see if the shop classes may be able to assist in constructing the ramps and rails.

Seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried with Brian Schroeder voting no.

Freedom Park Projects:

Jeremiah reviewed the projects for the Freedom Park. Ken House with the VFW updated the board on the process for the VFW, banquet hall and senior center. Ken will keep the board updated as this process moves forward. Jeremiah did comment there will be some transportation issues that will be needed be addressed on Wall Street. There was discussion about utilities in that part of the park.

Dave Green & Ken House thanked Jeremiah for the well done job at Freedom Park for the “Moving Wall”.

New Business

Freedom Park Field Usage Policy:

Michael presented the following proposals:

Proposal #1

The first proposal is to charge a flat participant fee at the start of each season. The fee that would cover the city’s costs is \$15.00 per each participant. The organizations would be responsible for verifying participant totals, collecting the money, and turning it in to city hall before the start of their respective seasons.

Projected revenue: \$9,375

- *Estimated soccer participant: 325*
- *Estimated football participants: 300*

Proposal #2:

The second proposal would be associated with tournaments. For any tournament that occurs at Freedom Park, whether they occur during the week or on the weekends, the City will charge \$300 for field preparation, utility expenses, refuse collection, and clean-up. This fee will cover the entire duration of the tournament. It will also capture some revenue from sources outside of the city.

Projected revenue: \$900

- *2 soccer tournaments*
- *1 youth football jamboree*

Proposal #3:

The third proposal would require a straight donation from all organizations who utilize the fields. Based upon previous projections from the participant fee the donation that would cover the City’s costs would be \$4,600 from each organization. Keep in mind that this may discourage smaller programs from using our fields as well as organizations with shorter seasons.

Projected revenue: \$9,200

- *Youth Soccer*
- *Youth Football*

Proposal #4:

The fourth proposal is to charge an hourly rate for use of each field. The hourly rate that we estimated would cover the city’s expenses is \$15.00/hr. This proposal allows for other organizations like lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee groups, rugby organizations, etc. to reserve a field for a pick-up game, practice, or weekend tournament without having to count participants or donate a lump sum to use our fields.

Projected revenue: \$9,000

- *Football used 3 fields; 4 times per week for 1.5 hours= 18 hrs/wk x 11 weeks - 198 Hours*
- *Soccer-first season using freedom fields. Approximate hours of use – 400 hours*
- *TOTAL: 600 hours*

Proposal #5:

The fifth proposal is to maintain the status quo. In choosing this option the Park Board believes that requiring a fee for athletic field use would decrease usage and ultimately limit the positive impact to the local economy. In choosing this option the board recognizes that Parks and Recreation services help meet a basic human need of interaction and belonging. If we begin to charge for our facilities, teams may require higher signup fees from their participants which will limit who can participate on area teams.

Projected revenue: NONE

Discussion took place regarding the proposals. The concern is having nothing uniform and some of the sports groups have already put in large sums of money into Freedom Park. It is hard to justify helping to pay for mowing the grass when, it needs to be mowed whether or not the teams play at the park. There was discussion on clubs willing to put money into a fund for restrooms or concession stands, things that would help improve the park. The groups understand paying for direct costs; the City should not have to pay for them.

Michael presented the user field application, usage of this would give us a better idea on who is using our fields and how often. Frank Norton moved to table everything until the next meeting, with the understanding that the soccer and football clubs would not be charged for usage of Freedom Park in 2016. Michael will fine tune the user application and bring it back to the next meeting. Seconded by Tania Strawn, motion carried.

Rotary Proposal for Mary Park- Christmas 2016:

Jeremiah handed out a letter he had received from Lisa Woletz, President of the New Richmond Rotary. In her letter the Rotary is asking permission to use Mary Park from the day after Thanksgiving until December 31st. The Rotary would like to put a light display in the park. Admission would be a non perishable food donation to the Food Shelf. There was discussion regarding the electrical service and the utility bill for running the LED lights. Motion was made by Christine Melby to allow the Rotary to proceed with this project, seconded by Tania Strawn, motion carried.

Park Land Trust Report:

Park Land Trust Fund - \$74,751.59

Impact Fee Fund - \$18,920.62

Announcements:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 27th at 6:15 p.m. and there will be no meeting in February.

Jon Hailey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Marie Bannink
City Secretary