

The West Fargo Park Board met at 5:30 P.M. o'clock on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at West Fargo City Hall. Members present were: Sharon Odegaard, Gary Fugere, Denise Johnson, Kathy Scully and Ken Zetocha. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Odegaard.

Commissioner Fugere made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the order of the agenda. All Board Members present voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Scully made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zetocha to approve Park Board minutes of the March 15, 2006 meeting as presented. All Board Members present voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zetocha to approve the following items on Consent Agenda:

Approve Bills
Monthly Report

Commissioners Johnson, Scully, Zetocha, Fugere, and Odegaard voting aye, motion carried.

Mike Reiner spoke on behalf of the local BMX riders and supporters. They have recently regrouped (no official name yet). The American Bicycle Association (ABA) has been helping them with their organization. Mike and the other parents / supporters endorsed Josh Albaugh as Director of the Track.

Josh Albaugh next took the platform and spoke about his experience with BMX. He would want to be independent and not want to be associated with the AMA. Monday would continue to be race night with races on the weekend a possibility. Josh would like to start races on May 1.

Gabe Skarpol, Kevin Strauss, Ronda Gayson, Dean Shear, Jennifer Brode, and Joe Pasternik spoke up and gave their support of the BMX track and riders.

Director Erbstoesser told the BMX supporters that contrary to the rumors floating around the area, she never had the intention of closing the track. Director Erbstoesser wanted the BMX people to get organized so there was some type of structure at the track.

Commissioner Zetocha stressed that scheduling needs to be established and communication needs to be a high priority between the BMX leaders and park board.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zetocha to continue operation of the BMX track and approve Josh Albaugh as director of the track. Commissioners Fugere, Johnson, Scully, Zetocha, and Odegaard voting aye, motion carried.

Kathy Bishoff from the Early Childhood Center (ECC) presented a request for the matching funds program. Their playground had to move and when it was time to be put back up, the school district was not able to reinstall some pieces due to safety codes. The ECC is now in need of additional playground equipment for its 450+ children.

The school district annually allocates \$5,000 to each elementary school for playgrounds. Kathy had an estimate from Dakota Fence for \$15,876 for playground equipment plus a fence. Commissioner Fugere recommended that this agenda item be tabled until next month's meeting so they can further look into this request. All commissioners agreed.

Ben Potter, representing the West Fargo Baseball Association, presented a request for the matching funds program. They have various projects planned such as foul poles to the Babe Ruth field, distance markers for the Babe Ruth field, and replace the lights at the legion field.

Commissioner Zetocha recommended that this agenda item be tabled until next month's meeting so they can further look into this request. All commissioners agreed.

Chris Barton from the West Fargo Chamber was next with her 2006 West Fest presentation. She handed out a possible itinerary for the upcoming West Fest. The only change is the dodge ball tournament got moved from Tintes Park to possibly South Elementary.

The West Fargo School District, represented by Curt Jones, is requesting use of Vet's Arena for track meets during various dates from April 13 – May 17. They request the use of restrooms and open space of the auxiliary arena. In the 2006-2007 school year, they will have facilities available for restrooms and concessions. However, they still would like to use the auxiliary arena for an area to allow people to use in case of inclement weather.

Commissioner Odegaard, Director Erbstoesser, and VMA Manager Olson all questioned the timing of this notice. Commissioner Odegaard stressed that communication needs to be improved by the school district.

According to Mr. Jones, the school district would be responsible for all safety, maintenance, and staffing during the times of use. Commissioner Zetocha had a concern with letting the school use Vets arena when it could possibly be rented during the same time. Commissioner Zetocha also said a facility usage agreement would be ideal at some point.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fugere to approve the listed date's contingent on no conflicts with Vet's schedule for a trial basis this spring. Commissioners Scully, Zetocha, Fugere, Johnson, and Odegaard voting aye, motion carried.

Director Erbstoesser informed the board that Brian Neugebauer is still working on the Eagle Run elementary school site agreement. Director Erbstoesser hopes to have a final draft by next month's board meeting.

Business Manager Germundson had planned to recommend the VMA per hour ice rate to increase to \$90 per hour, but had received a call from Mark Lester of the West Fargo Hockey Association earlier in the day. Mark and other WFHA reps would like to voice their concern over the potential rate increase. It was decided that Commissioner Odegaard and Zetocha would join Director Erbstoesser and Business Manager Germundson with meeting the WFHA next week regarding this issue. This item will be tabled until next month's meeting. All commissioners agreed.

Director Erbstoesser presented a rough draft of a sick leave donation policy. The city of West Fargo recently passed a similar policy. Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the sick leave donation policy with the Director of Parks & Recreation and the Park Board President required to approve any sick leave donations. Commissioners Fugere, Johnson, Scully, Zetocha, and Odegaard voting aye, motion carried.

The FM Junior League Next To New Sale contract was next on the agenda. Director Erbstoesser said they have requested September 7th (\$150), 8th (\$750), and 9th (\$750) for Vets I.

Commissioner Fugere made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve the contract with FM Junior League Next To New Sale. Commissioners Zetocha, Fugere, Johnson, Scully, and Odegaard voting aye, motion carried.

The Eagle Run Utility Easement agenda item was tabled until next month's meeting due to lack of information at the time of the board meeting.

Steve Johnson from the West Fargo Soccer Association presented the board with financial estimates of the proposed soccer complex. Steve is talking to ten major sponsors who would donate \$10,000 to \$20,000 each over a three year period. Steve wants to know 1) if the Park District would be willing to help and 2) how much do they need to raise in order for the Park District to match (i.e. \$100,000).

Director Erbstoesser commented that she would set up a meeting with the bank to look at the cost of the Park District funding this type of proposal. Commissioner Odegaard recommended tabling this item until next month's meeting so they can further investigate the costs and commitment level the Park District can afford. All commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Scully made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

WF Park Board Chair, Sharon Odegaard

WF Park Board Clerk, Justin Germundson