

The West Fargo Park Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at West Fargo City Hall. Members present were: Sharon Odegaard, Denise Johnson, Kathy Scully and Ken Zetocha. Gary Fugere was absent. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Odegaard.

Commissioner Scully made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the order of the agenda with the following changes:

Additions – Reserve at Osgood

All board members present voting aye; motion carried.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve Park Board minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting as presented. All board members present voting aye; motion carried.

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

Approve Bills
Monthly Report

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

Bill Tuff representing the West Fargo VFW presented the park board with two checks totaling \$13,710.14 from their stag fundraiser for the Veterans Memorial Pool.

Todd Rheault and Ben Potter spoke on behalf of the West Fargo Baseball Club. Mr. Rheault gave a handout updating the board on the progress made by the baseball club since the last meeting. The handout also listed four proposals requested by the baseball club.

The main component of the proposals is the building of a youth baseball and softball complex in Rendezvous Park. The baseball club is looking for “official” support from the park board in order to kick off a fundraising campaign. The baseball club would commit to raising \$150K in the next 2-3 years. To complete phase one of the proposed complex would cost around \$350K-\$450K. Mr. Rheault also inquired about naming rights for the fields.

Commissioner Odegaard said she is hesitant if the park board gets on board with this project immediately because the baseball community will expect fields in an unrealistic timeframe. Mr. Rheault stated there is no official timeline, but 2010 would be a goal. Mr. Rheault also stated there has been a lack of interest from the adult program regarding fundraising for new fields.

Commissioner Odegaard suggested an organized meeting with Director Erbstoesser and all baseball / softball groups (youth, adult, boys, girls, school, etc). Commissioner Zetocha agreed that all parties need to be in on these preliminary talks.

Recreation Manager Belisle gave an update on the recreation programs. Recreation Manager Belisle asked for approval to hire an employee's daughter for a part-time position. Recreation Manager Belisle state he would be her supervisor.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zetocha to allow Recreation Manager Belisle to hire Recreation Specialist Wangler's daughter to a part-time position this summer with the understanding that Recreation Manager Belisle would be her supervisor. Commissioners Scully, Zetocha, Johnson and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Director Erbstoesser informed the board of the park district survey that is available at our website and recommended a special meeting to discuss the results. The meeting will be at 4:00 on May 7th, 2008 at the Veterans Memorial Arena.

Steve Iverson spoke on behalf of The Reserves at Osgood. Larry Weil from the City of West Fargo was also present. The plat was recently conditionally approved by planning / zoning except for the park district portion. Commissioner Johnson brought up safety with regards to the corner location of the park. Mr. Iverson informed the board that he is working with Eid-Co to potentially make one larger park rather than two smaller parks.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to refer to proposed park area to Director Erbstoesser and Mr. Iverson for proposed development plan and decide at a later meeting. Commissioner Johnson, Scully, Zetocha and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Commissioner Zetocha made motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve Director Erbstoesser to advance planning of section 29 for future park development. Commissioners Johnson, Scully, Zetocha and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Director Erbstoesser discussed the idea of designating the park district's interest earnings into a separate account earmarked for special projects that would derive from long and short range priorities as set forth by the West Fargo Park Board. The idea was originally discussed at the January 2008 retreat. Because of market fluctuations, it is unknown what these amounts will total on an annual basis.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zetocha to designate depository interest funds into a capital improvement fund that will be earmarked for special long and short term projects set forth by the West Fargo Park Board. Commissioners Zetocha, Johnson, Scully and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

WF Park Board Chair, Sharon Odegaard

WF Park Board Clerk, Justin Germundson