

**Park Board**  
**August 16, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Park Board Chair Al Vorderbrueggen called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Meeting was held at Schmuck Park.

**ROLL CALL:** Al Vorderbrueggen, Don Moore, Blaine Golden, Hillary Hoffman and Al Kirkpatrick: Present. Don McClintock: Absent.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

Pool:

Mayor Jim Retzer introduced Dave Buri who is a long time Colfax resident and a State Representative, District 9. Buri has volunteered to help with a renovation project for the pool, his expertise with grant writing and media promotions will be very helpful.

Public Works Director Matt Hammer, City Administrator Chris Mathis, Parks Steve Larkin and Buri have been meeting to discuss the renovation project as which is likely 1 ½ to 2 years out. They are looking at different grants available and will come up with a plan. They are working with Steve Nelson, Century West Engineering and Lyle Smith from WMS Aquatics. Nelson is the one that helped Garfield with their grant application process for updating their pool. Nelson came down and did a walk through at the pool, he was able to take several pictures of debilitated equipment that should help with applying for grants. There have not been any updates since 1960 at the pool.

Retzer would like to add to this committee a Park Board member and Friends of the Parks member to help with the planning process. Retzer went on to say the Park Comp Plan needs updated and he would like to see the plan stay within our means of the city funds with ideas that are attainable.

Kirkpatrick asked if we are looking to do a renovation vs. build new. With the hospital the bricks and mortar were great but once the renovations started and technology added it was more expensive to renovate than to add new building.

Retzer stated this is why we are working with Nelson he has the expertise on these kind of projects.

Hammer interjected that Nelson put out some rough numbers and to renovate the pool it could be 1 ½ to 2 million to build new is 6 to 8 million.

Items on list for improvements are: renovate bathrooms, fix leaks in the pool, ad splash pad in the old kiddie pool and move fence line back to incorporate more picnic area

Buri stated he recently drove by the pool and got out and walked around and noticed the kiddie pool was not in operation and other issues. Previously Buri has helped secure funds for lights at McDonald Park so he has experience with this type of grant applications, he decided to meet with Retzer and that is how all this started. Buri went on to say Garfield is getting a liner, splash pad, lights and a fence for 1 million. 20 years ago Ritzville did a 1.7 million bond and they have a very nice facility.

There are different funding opportunities available and bonds are more difficult request for the

citizens. Buri stated they make a lot of these legislation decisions on odd years which is perfect timing since we are 1 ½ to 2 years out. This will be a team effort that will take all of us working together. The park board is the key group of saying yes lets go for it or no lets hold off for now. Vorderbrueggen states small towns are great for in kind ability for matching funds. We can do some of those within the city with staff hours but volunteers can also go towards that with excavation services from area farmers or donations. With the leaking issue we can also use water conservation for grant matching.

Retzer stated Nelson writes a lot of these grants for free, in turn he hopes to get the contract and Mathis is looking at different angle on how to properly use some of the CARES funds for matching money as well.

Buri asked if Park Board is giving a thumbs up for proceeding. He will work on a timeline for next meeting with the grants available and when we would need to start.

Vorderbrueggen interjected if it is for the RCO Grant it needs to be in by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Park Board consensus is that they are supportive of the pool.

#### Eells Park Fountain:

Retzer got some volunteers together to repair the Eells Park fountain that has been out of service for years. They started with turning on the fountain and there were several leaks, holes and cracks. They were able to cut chunks out and repair with pouring new concrete around the bottom. They sand blasted and will sealed the entire fountain. Larry and Travis Harrison are the professionals that helped restore the fountain.

Next year is the 150 year celebration for Colfax and Retzer would like to have a ribbon cutting for the fountain as well as the playground equipment installed before the pandemic.

#### Comp Plan:

Vorderbrueggen stated we need to get the plan updated if we want to apply for any of these grants. RCO won't even accept a grant application if this isn't up to date.

Kramlich sent out the previous park plan from 2014 then the new one the students did in 2016.

Vorderbrueggen likes the 2014 version better it achieves all the goals and lists the objectives that are needed. The students turned the 2016 version into a maintenance plan with a lot of repetitive wording. Vorderbrueggen suggest we combine the two plans and make sure the pool is included in the plan and maybe appoint that the # 1 project. Also trails were not mentioned in the 2014 plan we need to get those added in. Weaknesses should not be listed out in a comp plan. Every park plan has to have a survey as a component of it. We can get that out on social media for the public to participate in.

The Comp Plan does not need to be a fancy document for RCO approval, Vorderbrueggen suggested we send out with tracking the changes so the board can see what is different.

Vorderbrueggen also reminded the board to send ideas to Kramlich but reminded everyone to not reply all with emails that constitutes as a public meeting. We can approve the plan if the survey isn't complete, we can insert with results when that is completed.

#### **OTHER:**

Kirkpatrick asked about a couple of cars and trailers parked at Lookout Park all the time, limiting parking for park use.

Retzer stated they are working on that situation.

Hoffman spoke with Carrissa Little who was in charge of the swim team this year, she reported the year went great. Little is concerned about the lane lines which are cracked and broken and cutting the kids. Little looked into replacements for just the plastic pieces or the entire lane line, a new lane line is \$1,100. It was also suggested we purchase a crank wheel to reel lines out of pool which would be easier on the pieces and the lifeguards.

Also, Little informed Hoffman there is a missing wheel on the cover reels.

Hammer stated Larkin replaced the wheel.

Hoffman also asked about the state of McDonald Park restrooms, at the last council meeting it was reported they are in horrible condition.

Hammer spoke with Scotty Parrish about that and he had actually hired the Peterson boys to clean the bathrooms for tournaments and they didn't want to plunge the toilets so they asked their parents to do it. Hammer went and checked the bathrooms and there are broken fixtures that need to be replaced.

Retzer said there was a breakdown in communication to let us know things needed repaired.

Kirkpatrick has been helping Parrish with weed spraying, he was using a backpack sprayer because the 4-wheeler sprayer was broken. Kirkpatrick encouraged Parrish that if he has right equipment it makes the job much easier. He will talk with him some more on some of these other issues.

Hammer reported part of the problem is McDonald Park has low flow residential toilets not the industrial kind which would be best for public restrooms. He also noted faucets need to be replaced and latches on stalls need fixed but these are all issues that we can get completed.

There has also been talk of a batting cage facility and Hammer stated neither the school nor the city has the funds for this type of project and they will need to come up with fund raising or grants themselves.

There are 2 new flag poles being installed at McDonald Park that were donated by the American Legion. Retzer had plaques made stating this information to place at each pole.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Vorderbrueggen adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

  
Lynda Kramlich, Secretary