

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 1, 2008**

**AGENDA**

**ROLL CALL**

The Board of Park Commissioners met for their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Bollman, LaDouceur, Hutchison, and Jeske. Commissioner Panzer was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 4, 2008**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeske to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2008, meeting. Seconded by Commissioner LaDouceur; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA**

None.

**DELEGATES TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD**

None.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITY PROPOSAL ON RIVERSIDE POOL**

Commissioner Bollman made an opening statement with historical information on the pool since the 1997 flood and how it has ended up on the wet side of the dike. He stated the Board would not make a decision on the Riverside Pool issue tonight, but will meet again this week to make a decision.

He invited anyone in the audience who wished to address the issue to do so, first by identifying themselves and then speaking. The Board will listen, only, but not comment on any points made.

Corey Uhrich of the Riverside Park neighborhood stated the levy has been moved back since 1997 allowing more flow of the river, so flooding is not the issue it was in 1997.

Hal Gershman, City Council President, stated he believes an upgrade of the pool will attract swimmers and would like to see the pool have a chance.

Jon Strandell stated he has become frustrated that the constant point being made is the pool loses money. He hopes the Commissioners would want outdoor swimming as a recreational opportunity.

Cindy Beyer, 110 Rolling Hills Circle, stated she believes approving operating Riverside Pool would create financial hardship and divide the city in a north/south direction, but realizes it is an emotional issue, like many issues related to the 1997 flood were. However, emotional issues are overcome, as many citizens had to do after the flood. She urged the Board to say no to the Riverside Pool issue.

Terry Bjerke, 5356 Fifth Avenue N, asked the Commissioners to look at all the numbers, realize that they can't guarantee future councils will subsidize, consider what impact this will have on other neighborhoods wanting a pool, what can we cut if we can't cut this, and jeopardizing federal dollars being pulled because of the wet side of the dike issue. He urged the Board to stick by its earlier decision on the pool.

Victor Nelsrud, 130 Conklin Avenue, stated three-fourths of the homes in the Riverside area are in the historic district, including the pool and bath house. He has spent his entire life in that neighborhood, and has observed that people will use the pool. He feels kids in that neighborhood are in danger crossing the Kennedy Bridge, on foot, to go to the East Grand Forks pool.

Councilman Eliot Glassheim asked the Board to take a small risk with the pool. He stated the Park District has taken larger risks than this since the decision to close the pool. Many things have changed:

1. The Corps changed its decision that the bath house was not a hindrance to flood protection.
2. The pool will be heated.
3. The pool is an anchor at the end of the Greenway.
4. The Park District closed the pool because costs were high compared to usage, but the City is willing to subsidize and donations have been made.

He encouraged the Board to operate the pool and revisit after eight years of use. He would like to see the Park District work with the City to operate, staff and market the pool. He feels it could be a win/win situation for Grand Forks.

Pat Grinde, 200 Conklin Avenue, stated she wants the pool saved for Grand Forks and feels Riverside Pool will make it and make Grand Forks.

Tom Bures, 28 Conklin Avenue, would like to see the pool operate. Between a mega playground and a pool, he feels the pool should be the amenity.

John Clayburgh, 1623 Lewis Boulevard, stated he is in favor of the pool and feels it is a great addition to the Greenway and has the potential to be a vital part of the Greenway.

Commissioner Hutchison stated he always felt the pool should not operate because it is on the wet side of the dike, but some things have changed, like the offer from the City, and feels it is justified to revisit the pool issue. It does deserve a chance with a five- to eight-year plan to relook at the operation of the pool.

Commissioner Jeske stated she understands the passion of the issue and will look at the whole picture over the next two days.

Commissioner LaDouceur stated he is concerned that if after five to eight years the pool closes, where that will put the Park District. He can't say yet where he stands on the issue.

Commissioner Bollman stated the experts have said it is not a good place for a pool. The public he's visited with are not in favor of re-building the pool.

The Board set a meeting for 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, to decide on this issue.

#### **HEARING FOR RENAMING LAKE AGASSIZ PARK**

Dave Unkenholz of the Grand Forks Exchange Club addressed the Board stating again the Exchange Club would like to contribute \$10,000.00 and annual monetary support to a park in the parks system, and have it re-named for the Exchange Club.

Lake Agassiz was suggested at last month's meeting and, after some research, was found to never have officially been named Lake Agassiz Park, but rather named by default.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeske to accept the Exchange Club's offer and re-name Lake Agassiz Park Exchange Club Park. Seconded by Commissioner LaDouceur; motion carried.

This issue requires two readings, therefore it will appear again on the May Board meeting agenda for final approval.

#### **ELKS TOT POOL**

Ben Olson, EAPC Architects, presented option C on the tot pool. It eliminates fencing around the splash park and includes a UV filter for all options.

The Board would like some time to go over the options. It was decided to put the item on the May Board meeting agenda.

Bill Palmiscno stated he likes option C, and it is under the \$150,000.00 mark.

## **2007 AUDIT**

Joe Martin, Brady Martz and Associates, addressed the Board with the results of the 2007 audit.

He pointed out two items of interest:

1. An amount of \$300,000.00 should be moved into the General Fund from the Forestry Storm Fund to be used for storm cleanup when needed.
2. A transfer of Ulland funds to the Foundation was made.

For the rest of the audit, Mr. Martin went over the highlights and management recommendations. He invited any board member to contact him with any questions on the audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchison to approve moving \$300,000.00 from the Forestry Storm Fund to the General Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaDouceur to approve the 2007 audit. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion carried.

## **XCEL GREENWAY COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING EVENT**

Melanie Parvey-Biby of the City, addressed the Board. A grant in the amount of \$20,500.00 has been given by Xcel Energy to the City for planting trees along the Greenway. The cost would be \$30,500.00, with the City contributing \$10,000.00.

Tree planting will involve about 150 trees to enhance the southeast pedestrian bridge. The planting will be between 9 a.m. and noon, starting at the Sunbeam Trailhead with volunteers, Xcel Energy and the Forestry crew assisting.

## **PENSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Hutchison briefed the Board on the meetings of the Pension Committee with Doug Anderson, Al Haberern and Mark Hall. Currently the Park District contributes 4.3% to the Pension fund, which the Committee felt was too low. A suggestion was made to increase that to 7%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchison to increase the Park District contribution to the Pension Fund to 7% beginning in 2009. Seconded by Commissioner LaDouceur; motion carried.

## **FOR ACTION**

### **SPRINGFEST SPONSOR**

Kati Brown, Manager of Suite 49, addressed the Board with information on Spring Fest 2008 set for May 3.

There were two changes from last year:

1. Beer in cans instead of taps will be available
2. Suite 49 will contribute \$200.00 toward the clean up costs

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchison to approve the sponsorship of Suite 49 with the two changes. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion carried.

### **C & B PROJECTS FOR 2008**

A motion was made by Commissioner LaDouceur to approve the capital and betterment projects for 2008. Seconded by Commissioner Hutchison; motion carried.

### **GOLF PRO CONTRACT**

Commissioner Bollman presented terms of the Golf Pro contract for 2008 as set up by the Golf Committee.

Commissioner Hutchison stated the salary increase should be based on base salary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutchison to set up the contract, one year at a time, leave the Pro Shop commission at 22%, and look at a pension plan at a future date. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion not passed by a majority as there was a two/two tie on the.

### **AWARD 2008 DED TREE REMOVAL CONTRACT**

Mike Fugazzi addressed the Board with the results of the DED tree removal bids.

SOS Yard and Tree Care was low bid, met all the specifications and he recommended the Board approve awarding the bid to them.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaDouceur to approve awarding the DED tree removal bid to SOS Yard and Tree Care. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion carried.

## **AWARD BIDS ON GOLF EQUIPMENT**

The bids for golf course equipment for King's Walk and Lincoln Park Golf courses were presented.

Equipment from Toro and Jacobsen were recommended as low bids, meets specifications, and total amount was within budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaDouceur to approve the purchase of two Toro riding greens mowers, five Toro walking greens mowers, one Toro electric utility cart and one Jacobsen riding fairway mower for a total of \$103,905.00. Seconded by Commissioner Hutchison; motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

There were no reports available for this month's meeting.

## **BILLS TO BE APPROVED FOR MARCH**

A motion was made by Commissioner LaDouceur to approve the bills for March in the amount of \$402,154.83. Seconded by Commissioner Jeske; motion carried.

## **SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT**

All reports were accepted as presented.

Superintendent Palmiscno reported the four nights of Knight for a Princess brought in over 1000 attendants.

Elks Pool is being marketed through the Spring/Summer *Recreational Activities Guide*, with the free swim coupon printed in the brochure. This has saved \$1000.00 in advertising dollars.

Center Court reported a to-date membership at 1458 and they are working with Blue Cross/Blue Shield in marketing Center Court.

Superintendent Mullally reported the driving range at King's Walk is scheduled to open next week and an April opening for the courses is scheduled, weather permitting.

Mike Fugazzi reported 510 street trees pruned and spending one and one-half days in Northwood as part of the North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association's days of service.

**BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT**

The Board was briefed on the progress of the Park District working with the Y on the new, proposed Wellness Center.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to by Commissioner LaDouceur to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Hutchison; motion carried.

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John Staley, Clerk

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Jim Bollman, President