

Mandan Park District  
Board of Minutes  
April 14, 2014

The Board of Park Commissioners duly met in regular session on Monday, March 10 at Mandan City Hall. Those present were President Arenz, Vice President Porter, Commissioners Keller, Allan and Legal Counsel Ruff. Commissioner Knoll was absent.

President Arenz called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30pm, CDT. President Arenz asked for approval of the minutes for March 10 regular meeting; A motion was made by Commissioner Knoll, seconded by Commissioner Allan. A roll call was taken, all voting yes, motion passes.

**New Employee:** Accounting Manger Heide Delorme introduced Andrea Johnson as the new Accounting Technician.

**Unfinished Business # 1:** Joe Arenz; President of the Mandan Hockey Club provided information on the hockey club statistics and the inability to finance an ice arena on their own. The Mandan Hockey Club supports a half cent sales tax if it helps the Mandan Park District construct another sheet of ice. President Arenz discussed the proper steps to accomplish a sales tax. Recommendation was made to have a retreat to continue pursuing a half cent sales tax. If the park board of commissioners approves a half cent sales tax, city commission has to approve the measure to place on ballot. Then the citizens have to vote and approve the sales tax. The key is that there are potentially other projects that we can include to benefit from a half cent sales tax. No decision tonight will be made and directed staff to schedule a retreat that works with commissioner's schedule. We would bring it back to the May Park Board Meeting for final approval.

**New Business #1:** Director Higlin introduced the Bismarck Mandan Chamber Leadership Committee to discuss an inclusive playground project. Amber Haman spoke on behalf of the leadership committee. The idea is to raise a portion of the funds and requesting a contribution of \$100,000 to be placed in the 2015 budget. As the community grows we would like to have an all-inclusive playground similar to the all-inclusive playgrounds in Minot, Grand Forks, and Williston. The location would be to place it at Eagles Park and the visibility of the interstate, close access to health care and HIT facilities. The cost of the project is around \$250,000 and a commitment of \$100,000 and the leadership committee would raise \$50-\$100,000 with grants and donations. Janel Glass presented information on the void and need of an all-inclusive playground. Mrs. Glass hopes the board will consider the project with support. President Arenz thanked everyone for their hard work. President Arenz asked if we should place it at one park or spread it throughout the parks. It was recommended that a rubberized surface be placed at one park. President Arenz mentioned that this project fits under our mission and we currently do not have hard surface for playground equipment.

Tracy Klein; Morton-Sioux Special Education Director spoke in support of a universally design playground for all needs to interact with one another. The surface is the key to this playground to increase accessibility. The best place this project can be constructed is at a city park that is a community playground.

Director Higlin recommended a universal playground committee to do additional research. Commissioner Allan was appointed to the committee.

Motion by Vice President Porter and seconded by Commissioner Keller; roll call vote, motion passes.

**New Business #2:** Director Higlin recommended for approval renewing the two year lease agreement with Chuck Tomac for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$500 annually.

**New Business # 3:** Recreation Manager Dave Frueh requested approval to increase our contribution for the construction of the fast pitch fields at Ft. Lincoln Elementary. The park district original contribution is \$50,000, Recreation Manager Frueh would like to increase it an additional \$25,000 contingent that the school district and baseball club match our contribution. Motion by Commissioner Allan, seconded by Vice President Porter. Motion Passes.

**New Business # 4:** Director Higlin updated the board that we were not funded by the Land & Water Conversation Fund. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$500,000 and the general fund does have funding in place. Associated Pool Builders in the process of researching our current infrastructure, design and specification for the May board meeting.

**New Business # 5:** Park Superintendent Mike Zerr asked for approval to send Roger Erhardt and Elmer Mattson to attend training at the ice arena school this fall. Motion by Commissioner Keller, seconded by Commissioner Allan. Motion passes.

**New Business # 6:** Director Higlin updated the board that Reid Katzung will be resigning July 3, 2014. The position has been advertised internally with two interested employees in the position. Interviews with Kara Haff and Rebecca Thomson has taken place with the interview committee made up of Reid Katzung, Heide Delorme, and Cole Higlin.

Staff Reports: No reports  
Commissioner Reports. – No reports.

Authorize payment of the monthly bills. A motion by Commissioner Keller, seconded by Commissioner Allan, motion passes.

**BILLS ADDED HERE**

Payroll  
US Bank

Next upcoming regular meeting will be April 14, 2014 at 4:30 pm at City Hall.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 pm was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner Allan.

---

Jason Arenz  
President, Board of Park Commissioners

---

Cole Higlin  
Clerk, Mandan Park District