

Ball Diamond Task Force Minutes
Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019 6:00 pm
Civic Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brittain, Heyer, Langner, T. Miller, Nus, Petersen
MEMBERS ABSENT: K. Miller
COUNCIL PRESENT: Rathe, Kangas, Drenkow (6:06), Mayor Soash
STAFF PRESENT: Bronner, Riordan
VISITORS: None

SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTION: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Langner.

Motion: To approve Aug. 4, 2019 agenda as presented.

04-19 Moved: Secoded:
Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1

Regular Business.

1. Set Regular Meeting Time

After some discussion it was decided that the Ball Diamond Task Force would have meetings the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:30 PM in the Civic Center

Motion: To set regular meeting time as 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm. Meetings not to exceed 90 min.

05-19 Moved: Brittain Secoded: Langner
Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1

2. Discussion on Number and Designation of 2019 Teams

Riordan presented the numbers that he had been provided for the number of youth teams that utilize the current ball diamonds. Rec Softball – 14, Rec Baseball – 21, Travel Softball – 5, Travel Baseball – 9.

Riordan's numbers showed no 6/7 baseball, but Langner pointed out that there were 3 teams. Rathe asked for clarification as to what the numbers beside the teams meant (ie 2024 GBB). Heyer explained that those were the graduation dates of the youth participating. There are additional teams (tee ball) that play in Shell Rock. Staff did not have the # of those teams.

3. Possible Ball Diamond Layout for Property North of Soccer Complex

The task force was shown a possible layout of what ball diamonds could look like on the land North of the Soccer Complex. Bronner explained that once council had staff explore options for possible areas for ball diamonds, Modern Builders put together a plan to show what could possibly there. It was stated that the intent is to keep 2nd and 3rd grade in Shell Rock. 6 diamonds would meet the needs of 2nd – 5th grades (11U) and 1 diamond to the North would be 13U. Bronner asked about mobile fencing for some of the fields. Langner said it was a possibility, but you still have to have someone move the fences, and a place to store the extra sections. Riordan mentioned that there should be a park planned somewhere in the complex as well. Brittain commented that there still may be a need for the 3 Kiwanis fields for practices. They are still usable as long as they are not flooded. Brittain also stated that if there hadn't been an issue with the neighbor when the original plan was proposed, that these fields would already be in place in this area. T. Miller asked what the concern was. Brittain replied that it was mostly to do with traffic in the area. Now Cedar River Parkway is about to be completed and should alleviate most of the traffic through the neighborhood.

Langner asked the task force, "Does this site meet our needs"? Mayor Soash asked T. Miller if she felt that the Miracle League Park would get its use. T. Miller said it definitely would. Rathe wondered if the site would meet the needs of the older youth. T. Miller – would this meet our needs for tournaments. Langner replied that it would, and could even run baseball and softball tournaments at the same time. Mayor Soash wondered what are we short other than adult softball diamonds? If money is going to be invested it needs to cover all youth. Brittain wondered if there would be any room to expand. Red Cedar Park was mentioned, but that area is REAP prairie so isn't likely. Brittain stated that if the task force can find a place for 2 or 3 larger fields then it should be nailed. Again the possibility of 2 or 3 new adult fields in Memorial Park was mentioned.

Kangas asked about pitching mounds. Langner responded that they are all portable and can be placed at whatever distance is necessary. Langner asked where do we go from here? Riordan reported that if the Task Force decides on this area, then the next step is to study the soil borings and if it's favorable to have a complex designed.

Bronner asked if the Task Force was ready to abandon all other sites. The task force would like an agenda item on the Aug. 19 agenda to name a location of the complex. Langner state that the City needs to drive the project and there needs to be communication with the community to find out if they are in favor the project. Brittain wondered what the cost difference is to build the same complex at Champion's Ridge. Staff will try to get numbers together to show the sites side by side. Mayor Soash commented that the design that we have so far has been a volunteer effort.

Staff Report:

Bronner reported that the first round of soil boring tests had been completed. Borings were done in 4 different locations and none hit bedrock. They showed a lot of clay in the ground. The hill on the property should not be a detriment to designing.

Riordan reported that he had visited Miracle League Fields in Parkersburg and Ankeny in the past week.

Next Meeting:

Aug. 19, 2019 5:30 PM Civic Center

Adjournment:

Motion: To Adjourn

06-19

Moved: T. Miller

Seconded: Nus

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Garret Riordan
Commission Secretary
Leisure Services Director