

Ball Diamond Task Force Minutes
Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 5:30 pm
Civic Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brittain, Langner, T. Miller (5:36), Nus, Petersen
MEMBERS ABSENT: Heyer, K. Miller
COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Soash, Rathe
STAFF PRESENT: Bronner, Riordan, Cherry
VISITORS: None

SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTION: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chair, Langner.

Motion: To approve Sept. 23, 2019 agenda as presented.

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| 14-19 | Moved: Petersen | Seconded: Nus |
| Yes: 4 | No: 0 | Absent: 3 |

Motion: To approve Sept. 9, 2019 Minutes as presented.

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| 15-19 | Moved: Petersen | Seconded: Brittain |
| Yes: 4 | No: 0 | Absent: 3 |

Regular Business.

1. Discussion of Youth Ball Diamonds Concepts

Bronner presented two concepts of what the layouts could possibly be for ball diamonds at the site North of the Soccer Complex. He began with a layout that showed the soccer complex. Next was the layout of the youth ball diamonds, and finally a rendering of how the Soccer Complex and Youth Ball Diamond Complex could look together. The first concept had 2 "clovers" (3 diamonds), a miracle league field, and 1 larger diamond. The 2nd concept had a "quad" (4 diamonds), 2 diamonds set by themselves, Miracle League Field, and 1 larger diamond. Bronner pointed out that in the first concept, the parking lot would utilize the hill that is currently on the land. In the 2nd concept the parking lots would need to be rearranged and fields would be placed on part of the area where the hill is now leading to added expense in grading. The 2nd concept would also lead to a through road that could be dangerous for children to cross. The task force was in agreement that we proceed with Concept 1 for cost estimates, etc.

City engineer, Mike Cherry was present to explain the steps moving forward which included leveling the ground, hiring a consultant, and construction of the ball diamonds. He explained that there is an opportunity for State Revolving Fund (SRF) funds that may be able to be used for the parking lots and other amenities of the ball diamond complex. SRF funds (up to \$900,000) could be available from the WPC Facility improvements project. The funds must be used for a local water quality project. Originally the funds were going to be spent on a different project, but that project was cancelled by IDALS. Cherry believes that constructing a permeable parking lot would be eligible for these funds. Bronner added that the Champions Ridge area would not be eligible for these funds because that land is in a different water shed. Brittain wondered if playing surface of ball diamonds might also be eligible.

Cherry described the project as 3 phases.

- Grading, underground infrastructure/well for irrigation
- Contract for flat work – Parking Lots, Trail System

- Vertical Infrastructure – Concession Stands, Restrooms, Fences, Bleachers, Batting Cages, Playgrounds, etc.

The hope is that the diamonds would be seeded by Labor Day 2020 and be able to be played on in the Spring of 2021.

Petersen stated that drainage is just as important as irrigation and should be given a lot of attention. Rathe wondered if irrigation could be problematic as it gets older. She said the Golf Course has had a lot of problems with theirs. Most of the irrigation problems come from replacing the irrigation heads. Langner asked if the speed limit on Cedar River Parkway would be reduced. Cherry stated that would be driven by need. T. Miller asked if there would be any Spring Baseball/Softball Tournaments that would interfere with Soccer. Langner said the plan would be to work around the Soccer schedule.

2. Volunteers to serve on Engineering Firm Selection Committee

Cherry explained that he would be asking Council to proceed with firm interviews and selection. The goal is to have a committee made up of Staff, Council, and the Task force to choose a firm. Some Civil Engineers have experience with ball diamonds, some do not. The Civil Firm that is chosen should have experience with Ball Diamonds, bioswales, permeable parking, and SRF funds.

Brittain asked if we move forward right now not knowing if we have the SRF funding. Bronner stated that the City will go alone if we have to. The SRF funding would mean that the City wouldn't have to front as much money.

Interviews for the firms will most likely be in November.

3. Discussion of Possible Capital Campaign

Langner reported that multiple people have approached him that are interested in donating when there is a project.

Soash added that it might be a good idea to invite the Soccer Association in to talk about their strategy when they did their fundraising.

Brittain asked if there was a list of Service Organizations in town that may be interested in donating. Riordan will work on compiling that list.

Staff Report:

Chair Report:

Reports and Communications: Petersen reminded everyone that Council is looking for a comparison of this site and the Champions Ridge site for the Oct. 28 presentation. Rathe thought that an explanation of the baseball/softball organization would be a good starting point for Council.

Next Meeting:

Oct. 7, 2019 5:30 PM Civic Center

Adjournment:

Motion: To Adjourn

16-19

Moved: Brittain

Seconded: Petersen

Yes: 5

No: 0

Absent: 2

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Garret Riordan
Commission Secretary
Leisure Services Director