

Dixon Park Board

February 22, 2024, 4:30pm

Dixon Park Board met in session February 22, 2024, 4:30 p.m. Attending were Commissioner Jeff Graham, Park Board members Lori Hayes, Mandee O'leary, Barb Goff, Vicky Tillman, Eddie Branson, and Sondra Norman, and representatives from Webster County Youth Soccer Fahmin and Melea Ramin and Karolann Greenwell.

Jeff called the meeting to order, and asked for nominations for a chairman. Sondra made a motion to nominate Vicky as Park Board Chairman, seconded by Barb, all ayes. Vicky presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Sondra made a motion to nominate Barb as Park Board Secretary, seconded by Mandee, all ayes.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved on a motion by Mandee, seconded by Sondra, all ayes.

Vanities for the restrooms have been ordered and will be installed prior to soccer beginning in March. The City is still waiting for documentation to allow receipt of payment from the juveniles involved in the vandalism last fall.

Johnny Denton has been contracted to move the serving window in the concession stand. He will have the projected completed prior to soccer games in March. The Park Board previously approved payment for the concession window as long as the project cost was no more than \$1800. Though Mr. Denton has not provided an actual estimate, he has guaranteed the job will not go over the allotted amount.

Discussion continued for plans to apply for a Land and Water Conservation grant. Applications are to be submitted by May 31, so the Board intends to have all information to GRADD, who will write the grant, no later than May 1.

Jeff has priced batting cages and estimates that project to cost around \$15,000. Jeff reminded the Board that specific quotes are required for the grant application.

Additional suggestions to be included in the grant application were: solar lighting to surround the playground, splash pad, and walking trail areas; refurbishing the basketball court; and creating additional parking. Sondra will research the lighting.

Due to certain activities having been noticed at the park, it was mentioned to request the WC Sheriff's department regularly patrol the park.

A retaining wall around two sides of the splash pad was discussed. Water loss is a problem that must be fixed before the upcoming season. The Park Board would like to see a wall built with concrete blocks and stucco. Sondra made a motion for Jeff to request the Commission build the wall, seconded by Eddie, all ayes.

Lori presented a request from the Tourism Board for the Park Board to allow Tourism to use their 501c to apply for a gaming license to be used to host fundraisers. Sondra made a motion to establish bylaws for the Park Board, seconded by Lori, all ayes. Sondra made a motion to revisit the gaming request from Tourism after establishing bylaws, with certain rules to be set in place, seconded by Eddie, all ayes.

The Park Board reviewed basic care of the park and facilities for the upcoming soccer season. Webster County Youth Soccer will help maintain areas of the park they use, including keeping areas cleaned and assisting with mowing the soccer field as needed. The County mowing crew has previously performed mowing at the park, but lack of trustees available is dramatically decreasing their availability to mow. WCYS stated they do have some parent volunteers that will mow the field if needed. WCYS will host all of their games in the spring 2024 season at Baker Park in Dixon, but will also have teams practicing in Sebree. Funds raised by WCYS through registrations, concessions, and admissions are used to purchase equipment, insurance, and pay referees; therefore, the organization does not make a profit. As this year's increased participation will increase their funding, WCYS presented a check for a donation of \$1,000 to assist the city with facility expenses, and stated the intention to make a similar donation next year. Barb made a motion to deposit the donation to the City's Park Fund, which is used to pay utilities, seconded by Sondra, all ayes.

In regards to the unavailability of trustees to the mow the park this year, Mandee will reach out to the local FFA to see if they would be interested in mowing some as a community service project.

A parking lot extension project was mentioned, but due to funding and the expense of the project, discussion was brief.


Dixon Tourism Board, in conjunction with Teen Challenge, is hosting a 5K on May 18, with food trucks and other activities at Baker Park. The Tourism Board invited the Park Board to join them in concession stand operations as a fundraiser during the event. Mandee made a motion to approve the Park Board assist with the concessions at the event, and split expenses and profits for such with the Tourism Board, seconded by Eddie, all ayes.

A meeting was scheduled for March 19 at 5pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori, seconded by Sondra, all ayes.



Vicky Tillman, Chairman



Barb Goff, Secretary