

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2021 - 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Members Present: Carol Berg, Jen Frazer, Kelly Huffield

Others Present: Joy Short, Pattie Berg (City Liaison)

Public Comment

None

Critical Committee Member Updates (if any)

None

Work Session: McStravick Park Bids

The Mayor and Chair Berg met with a leveling contractor last week. The verbal estimate was around \$20,000 to prepare the surface for sealant which, according to earlier information, would cost \$10,000. This would create a surface that has a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. This verbal estimate spurred the reason for this meeting.

The Committee discussed that, since the beginning of this project, the plan was to get a reasonably playable court and take time to plan for a permanent fix. The purchase of the used court surface made it possible to install a playable surface, see how people like playing on it, gain some community interest in the racket sports, and have 5-10 years to fundraise for a more permanent fix.

In its research, no one suggested to the Committee that the surface prep needed to be as extensive as has been proposed. In fact, one of the benefits of a panelized surface is the cost savings from not having to redo the court's surface.

While it might be nice to have a 25 to 30 year surface, it would be inconsistent with the Committee's goals, especially if it doubles the project cost. And, given the recent lack of support for a tennis program expressed by some City staff members and citizens, the Committee was concerned about the political ramifications that could come from a huge increase in costs and a change in plan.

Given the information above and the contents of the Bair Grant application, the Committee agreed to recommend to the City that the City stick to the Committee's initial plan, which includes getting bids to prepare the surface as per the instructions of the owner of Full Court Athletics, the Bozeman Parks Superintendent, and the Billings Skyview tennis coach. The specific motions made were:

1. Jen Frazer made a motion that the City abstain from requesting bids to fully overlay the court surface. Motion seconded by Kelly Huffield and passed unanimously.
2. Jen Frazer made a motion to request separate bids for the surface prep:

- Bid 1: Fix spalled areas
- Bid 2: Other surface prep that results in a surface upon which a panelized court can be placed.

Contractors would be allowed to bid on either or both of projects. Carol Berg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee also reviewed the McStravick Park project budget that was submitted to the City Council in September of 2020. Upon completion of that review, the Committee directed the Liaison to ask that the following be made available for Phase I work:

- **Unappropriated concrete line item: \$5,600.** This will be necessary because the City crew will not be replacing the spalled areas as was originally planned. Chair Berg said the City will provide the concrete to the company that gets the Phase I job. This will save the 'stocking fee' charged by most contractors.
- **Unappropriated Personal services line item: \$5,000.** This will also be necessary because the City crew will not be replacing the spalled areas. The Committee also wondered, given the change in plans, if there are any additional funds available in Salaries or Extra help.

Finally, the Committee was not able to employ a contractor to place the panelized court which results in a \$7,000 savings in the project budget. Pattie Berg is trying to get someone with panelized court experience from Bozeman or Billings to agree to come supervise this work, but that wouldn't cost \$7,000. This means that as much as \$7,000 might be available for surface prep work.

With these changes, the total funds available for surface prep could be as much as \$17,000.

The Committee asked the Liaison to inform the Mayor of the Committee's actions and recommendation for funding and to let him know that Chair Berg is working on bids and will have them to him by the Monday the 19th so they can be included in next week's Meagher County News. The bids which should be placed next week include:

- Bid 1: replace spalled areas.
- Bid 2: Seal alligator cracks and expansion joints and grind off high spots
- Bid 3: Fencing repair & installation of door on north side of the tennis court.

Jen Frazer is working on the landscaping bid.

Other Discussion:

The City crew removed the bushes that were pushing on fence at the tennis court. Some committee members that looked at that work were concerned that the foundation dig on the West's property appeared to be encroaching on City property. The Committee directed the City Liaison to ask the Mayor to verify that the actual survey pins are located on the adjoining property line before West's begin pouring.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2021.

Adjourn

On a motion made by Kelly Huffield, seconded by Carol Berg, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned.