

Minot Park Board Minutes
April 20, 2010

The Minot Park Board met on April 20, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Courtroom.

Members Present: Cliff Hovda, Connie Feist, Robert Petry, Ron Bieri, and Robert Walstad. Also present were Ron Merritt, Robin Gordon Thompson, Park District Attorney, and Cindy Thomas.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Personal Appearances: Amanda Wegner appeared before the Board to present her case for an abatement of her property taxes. Ms. Wegner was using a swing in Oak Park when she fell and was injured. Her claim was turned over to the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund, the Park District's insurance carrier. They denied the claim. Robin Gordon Thompson, Park District Attorney, stated the abatement proceeding was not for settling liability claims, and that recreational entities are not liable for this type of incident. Ms. Wegner asked why this was not posted somewhere. Ms. Thompson stated that it was not necessary to post. Ms. Thompson stated her recommendation to the County Commissioners would be to deny the request, pursuant to section 57-23 of the North Dakota Century Code. After more discussion, motion by Bieri, second by Feist to recommend against abatement of taxes by Amanda Wegner. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Motion by Bieri, second by Hovda to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Petry, second by Feist to approve bills in the amount of \$239,954.75. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Motion by Petry, second by Hovda to approve salaries in the amount of \$97,792.90. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Golf Committee Report: Motion by Hovda, second by Bieri to allow Hess Corporation to hold a tournament at Souris Valley Golf Course on Saturday, July 17, 2010. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held regarding the bids received for the paving of cart paths at Souris Valley. There were two bids received, Keller Paving at a price of \$23.23 per linear foot for the 1200' stretch and a bid of \$1980.00 for the overlay of #8 and Bechtold Paving at a price of \$24.75 per linear foot for the 1200' stretch and a bid of \$5745.00 for the overlay of #8. Kim Knatterud, golf course superintendent, would recommend accepting Keller Paving's bid. He reported he had \$18,000.00 budgeted this year, and was going to try to come up with an additional \$12,000.00 from his budget to pay for the 1200' and the #8 overlay. The 1200' stretch would run from the bridge on #2 to #2 green. Discussion was held regarding the width of the path. Knatterud stated that is the new spec for cart paths. Bieri questioned if that line item would just run over by that amount and there would be less spent elsewhere in the golf course budget. Merritt stated that would be the case. Motion by Bieri, second by Hovda to accept the bid from Keller Paving up to \$30,000.00. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Feist questioned how our regular customers would find out about the Hess tournament. Bieri stated there would be a sign posted in the Pro Shop well in advance of the tournament date.

Zoo Committee Report: Petry reported the architect had recommended accepting the low bid on the zoo entrance building from Rolac Contracting. Motion by Petry, second by Hovda to accept the low combined bid from Rolac Contracting for \$1,719,379.00. Feist questioned what the completion date would be. Carter Myre stated he would get that from the contractor. Discussion was then held regarding the motion. After discussion, Petry amended the motion to read, "Accept the low combined bid from Rolac Contracting in the amount of \$1,735,600.00, Hovda seconded the amended motion. On roll call, all members voted yes. Merritt reported the Board would need to decide what method they would use to pay for the project. With the inclusion of landscaping, point of sale software, furniture, and Xcel electric service, the cost of the project would be approximately \$1,950,000.00. Merritt would recommend borrowing \$1,000,000.00 at 4% to help pay for the project. A resolution for a revenue bond would need to be drafted by our attorney and approved by the Board. Feist questioned if one million was the low minimum we will have to finance, Merritt stated it was. Motion by Feist, second by Petry to obtain a revenue bond of one million dollars at a rate of 4%. Walstad stated if we find money, the Board can pay down on the note. On roll call, motion carried. Feist questioned if the financing would be bid out. Merritt stated this quote was from Bremer.

Parks Committee Report: Motion by Bieri, second by Feist to accept the bid from Titan Machinery for an all-purpose vehicle at a price of \$9,699. This price includes hood rack, bed liner, and lights. On roll call, all members voted yes.

Motion by Bieri, second by Feist to accept the schedule as presented on the "Celebration Calendar". Feist reported the Magic Smiles committee is coordinating this event. Motion carried.

Motion by Bieri, second by Petry to approve the following baseball rates: \$25.00 per hour for high school and college teams, \$15.00 per hour for Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, and Legion teams, with a tournament fee of \$400.00 across the board. Merritt stated he did not know how much revenue this would generate as this would be a trial year. Motion carried.

Motion by Bieri, second by Feist to allow dogs off leash but under voice command at the Bison Plant property. Motion carried.

Administration Committee Report: Walstad reported a Committee of the Whole was held on April 14, 2010 to discuss future planning. He felt another Committee of the Whole meeting should be held on May 12, 2010, next administration meeting, to finish the future planning exercise. Motion by Feist, second by Hovda to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from April 14, 2010. Motion carried.

Motion by Petry, second by Feist to approve the alcohol permit for the Maysa Area for a retirement party. Motion carried, with Bieri abstaining from the vote.

Other Business: Motion by Feist, second by Hovda to approve holding Military Appreciation Day at the Roosevelt Park Zoo on June 16, 2010. Motion carried.

Merritt reported he had received a letter of intent from the Hockey Boosters, Figure Skaters, and MAYSA to spend \$180,400.00 in ice time for the current year. This amount is approximately \$1,500.00 less than what was asked for in ice time.

Director's Report: Merritt reported Rodney Welke, long time Forestry employee, would be retiring on May 31, 2010. He has been with the Park District 17 years. There will be another employee to be hired,

but Merritt stated the committee would probably hire from the same pool as the last one was hired from, as there were several good applicants. They will be having a lunch for Welke at the shop, and with the Board's permission, Merritt would like to get him a small gift for his years of service.

Merritt also reported the Verizon representative would be submitting a proposal for a cell phone tower in the Oak Park area.

Merritt stated MACA has sent their annual request for payment for the summer concert series, and he reported we would be paying that bill this month.

Bids were opened on the Napa Valley Lots. There was one bid received on Lot 4, 16th Addition, for \$31,000.00. The asking price for that lot was \$30,885.66. Motion by Feist, second by Bieri to accept the bid from Guy Stevens for Lot 4, Napa Valley 16th Addition, for \$31,000.00. On roll call, motion carried, with Petry being absent from the room. Feist questioned if these monies would be set aside for the zoo project. Merritt stated they would.

Merritt reported the lot on the east end of 7th Avenue SW, Napa Valley, will be going to planning commission to be changed into one big lot. He also reported the lot behind the bar the Original is zoned C2, and he would recommend changing the zoning to R1 before it was put up for sale. He felt this was only fair to the neighbors. Motion by Bieri, second by Hovda to allow Merritt to go to planning commission to rezone the Original lot to R1, and to put the remaining Napa Valley lots back up for bids. Motion carried.

Commissioner's Reports: Petry stated the Parks are being used. We are having great spring weather. Walstad stated we need to keep the parks safe and continue to beautify the parks and increase user ship. He also requested a Foundation meeting be held next month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Cindy Thomas, clerk

Robert Walstad, President