

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Decker called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were: President Scott Decker, Commissioners Nikki Wolla and Suzi Sobolik

Absent: Vice President Jason Fridrich and Commissioner John Odermann

3. ORDER OF BUSINESS**A. Parks and Rec Presentation**

Parks and Rec President Scott Kovash thanks the City Commissioners for allowing Parks and Rec to give an update of the future plans and to let the City know what Parks and Rec Department is doing.

Executive Director James Kramer presents many projects that the Parks and Rec have been working on for too many years. Director Kramer starts out with the discussion of Patterson Lake land conveyance. He states all of the 1600 acres was conveyed and deeded to the park district a month ago. He states at this time the cabin owners will be able to purchase their lots. The lots range anywhere from \$50,000 to \$55,000. He states when the lots are sold the Parks and Rec will be able to pay themselves back for reimbursable costs in the amount of \$250,000. The remaining money will need to be returned to the Bureau of Reclamation. There is 26 miles of shoreline and the average depth of the lake is 9'.

Director James Kramer discusses the Community Center. The membership prior to Covid was 7,200 and currently there is about 6,000 members. They were at the lowest in 2020 of 5,200 members. He states the outdoor pool will be opening this week. He states last year they were to the good of \$97,000, then Covid and was \$156,000 in the red. This year they are at \$144,000 in the red. There were no major improvements or capital projects this year. They are struggling to regroup and then had asked the City for \$400,000.

Director James Kramer visits about the projects they are working on to include chip and seal to the infrastructure roads and trails. These projects will cost between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million dollars and Northern Improvement will be doing the work. There seven areas that these improvements will be made to. Mr. Kramer states Parks and Rec have used quality of life assistance money towards these projects. Other projects include 32 playgrounds and parks and rec are starting to replace these playgrounds.

Director James Kramer visits about the Friendship Park as they have received a Covid grant of \$1.2 million. They also had received \$450,000 in federal grant money. The engineering and design team had a meeting last week and they are moving forward with the design.

Director Kramer visits about the sports complex to include the school district and the university. He states the design is about 80% complete but the budget and financing is lacking a bit. The team is starting to meet with public entities and do fundraising. He states growth of the soccer program has been outstanding.

Director Kramer states there are 28 fulltime employees; 386 part-time employees with a \$6.2 budget; 34% is operational and comes from property tax; 68% is used for wages/benefits and 24% utilities and the rest of the capital projects.

Commissioner Nikki Wolla asks Mr. James Kramer how the Parks and Rec intend to incorporate the youth groups of the ages of 12-18. She feels maybe an ATV trail could be brought forward. She states getting a youth commission together may have benefits in what the youth would like to see for activities in the community.

Director Kramer feels Park and Rec could partner with the City and the youth commission to help identify some of the events that would interest the youth. Parks and Rec are working with the Kilwein's for their annual run.

President Scott Decker discusses intermural sports activities. He states he has heard comments from out of state people on how beautiful our parks are here. He feels the retention ponds should be able to hold water.

Commissioner Suzi Sobolik would like for the incorporation of youth in non-athletic sports. She feels the new youth commission could tie together between so many entities and what the students want to see in the community.

Parks and Rec Vice President Tim Daniel would like to see the youth involved in activities that do not include alcohol. He states the 1st on 1st is not for the youth. He feels there are activities that we need to keep in mind for the youth but also for the college students so they have activities to do while they are going to college in Dickinson.

President Scott Decker is very optimistic in where the City is at during this time. He visits about the training center, event center, civic center and wants to keep everyone in the loop and if the City should build an event center and to make it a multi-use this may have the room for another sheet of ice.

Parks and Rec Commissioner JoMarie Kadrmas is concerned about the funding and the budget. She states the Parks and Rec do not get Cares money. She questions if the City is looking at Parks and Rec for funding some of their projects.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states the 2020 Cares Act went to the State of ND and that money was sent to the cities. This amount was approximately \$3 million dollars and has been used for a wide scope of uses determined by the Commissioners.

President Scott Decker states the County got a little over \$6 million dollars in Cares act funding. He thinks they will use \$500,000 for the CTE center. He states the biggest cities in the State have received their money directly, unfortunately Dickinson did not receive the funding.

City Administrator Brian Winningham states the county will be using the money for completing the road around Patterson Lake.

Executive Director James Kramer states the Parks and Rec does not take the City's funding for granted and the funds are very much appreciated. He states the City's staff to include Leonard Schwindt and Walter Hadley were a great benefit in helping with the Patterson Lake. Also Public Works Director Gary Zuroff and his staff did a great job in helping when a pipe broke and Parks and Rec were unable to get pipe. The city did come through and help out with this project. Director Kramer feels Parks and Rec and the City have a great working relationship.

President Scott Decker states the City of Dickinson has a world class staff and to keep pursuing different projects for the quality of life projects in Dickinson.

Parks and Rec President Scott Kovash states the City has phenomenal parks and the City but the City and Parks and Rec need to keep going and not just stand still. He feels that they need to make some things happen. He felt it was very interesting for the youth group to visit with Parks and Rec and would like to hear from them to hear what they have in mind of activities for the youth. He feels maybe some surveys should go out and see what the youth want to do. He states he feels maybe something grander than an additional sheet of ice can be done as he is not sold on a practice sheet of ice. He states it is hard to make something for just one group of people.

Parks and Rec Commissioner JoMarie Kadrmas would like for the money to stay in Dickinson and to have an economic impact in Dickinson and have people come here instead of taking their money somewhere else.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Decker adjourns the meeting at approximately 3:55 PM.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote... Aye 4, Nay 0, Absent 0
Motion declared duly passed.

OFFICIAL MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Rita Binstock, Assistant to City Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Brian Winningham, City Administrator

Scott Decker, President
Board of City Commissioners

Date: June 15, 2021