

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 11, 2007
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Lisa Bjork, Dale Berg, and Bob Hoekstra.
Absent: Audrey Stowell, Tony Kovach, and Brian Flynn.
- 3) Approval of Tuesday, August 14, 2007, Minutes: Motion by Dale Berg, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the August 14, 2007, meeting.
- 4) Personal Appearances by Citizens. None.
- 5) Planning:
 - a. New Artifact/Gift Shop Building In Irvine Park. Bill Faherty has talked to Marie's daughter regarding progress.
- 6) Decisions:
 - a. Approve/Discuss 2008 Park Board Operations Budget. Bill Faherty presented the annual budget as well as a detailed breakdown. There is a 3% increase over this year to sustain our current operations. This does not include any increase in wages that there may be.

Audrey Stowell arrives at this time.

Bill believes we should look at the operations of the department, our mission & objectives, job responsibilities, department policies & procedures, priorities, and revenues in discussing the budget. Discussion held regarding cuts in full or in part of the school house/log house, open gym & swim, scorekeepers, petting zoo, seasonal staff, and through reorganization. Discussed potential revenue increases by fee increases, donations of benches, etc., renting of Casper Park fields, advertising at Casper Park & the Zoo, and sponsorship of activities.

As presented, the budget has no changes. Cuts of \$24,000 to the 2007 budget and \$58,000 to 2008 have been requested.

Dick Hebert arrives at this time.

Cutting of the open gym & swim program would save \$1,700. Closing the schoolhouse/log house would save \$1,350. Cutting out softball scorekeepers would save approximately \$1,500.

Bob Hoekstra leaves at this time.

Reviewed and discussed in detail the Casper Park, Parks, Outdoor Pool, Petting Zoo, and Forestry budgets. Expenses for the fountain are new to the budget. Approximately \$1,750 in expenses currently without including staff time to clean filters twice a day. Discussed possibility of looking into replacing current filter system in the future.

Discussion held regarding making cuts requested, then having it cut again, as happened last year.

Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Dale Berg, to approve the budget as presented by Bill Faherty. All present voted aye.

- b. Approve/Discuss next Phase on Cougar Exhibit. Bill Faherty indicates that it will take approximately \$75,000 to do groundwork and wall. He would like to wait to discuss until after he receives final budget information.
- 7) Information:
- a. Committee Reports:
 - 1. Friends of Irvine Park Zoo. No report.
 - b. Staff Reports
 - 1. Recreation Programming Report. Dick Hebert reports that soccer has started and registrations for swimming and gymnastics are being taken this week.
 - 2. Irvine Park Zoo Updates. There is a new baby capuchin. A baby elk needed to be euthanized.
 - 3. Park Projects. Shelters are being worked on. Work on the pool is being done and should be completed by Oct. 15.
 - 4. Personnel Updates. No updates.
 - c. Donations. Walmart has donated \$3,000 for use at the pool or zoo. Bill Faherty would like to use this money to purchase new water attractions for use in the shallow end of the pool. Also a new marker at County Highways Q & S has been donated by the Kalk – Fattu family.
 - d. Board Member comments or concerns. Curt Stepanek asked about the outlay budget. Bill Faherty reported the outlay budget would include a shelter at Casper Park, new bleachers at Casper, new tables, bathrooms at Flag Hill, new pool house, money for the skate park, resurfacing of tennis and basketball courts at Marshall Park, and possibly other items.

Dale Berg said the letter thanking the sponsors for the anniversary celebration has not yet gone out.
- 8) Approve Claims. Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$28,036.45.
- 9) Adjournment. Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Dale Berg, all present voting aye, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bob Hoekstra and
Audrey Stowell, Secretary