



Friday, September 22nd, 2023
Grafton Parks & Recreation Office Board Room
715 West 5th Street
Grafton, ND 58237
Facilities Committee Meeting – 1:15pm

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Cory Burns at 1:15pm
 - A. Committee Members Present: Cory Burns, Ryer Stark, Scott Hills, Jon Jelinek, Kristi Olson
 - B. Staff Present: Bill Dahl, Matt Opegard

- II. Centennial Center
 - i. Cory turned the meeting over to Bill. Bill explained that Matt Olson would like a commitment from the Grafton Park Board that if the Youth Hockey Building Committee can raise \$3 million then the Park Board would carry the note for \$5 million to build a second ice arena with an agreement with the Grafton Blue Line Club that they would be responsible to make the annual payments on the note. The committee discussed the project. The plan to redo the main arena floor and have both ice sheets plumbed into the same ice plant makes sense. The committee also likes the spring sports idea to incorporate more value for the high school. Kristi shared what was presented to the North Stars Youth Hockey board. The new arena group is waiting for the completion of the promotional booklet before starting to fundraise, but they have a list of individuals who are willing to donate. Kristi explained that North Stars Youth Hockey is not interested in taking on this project. They feel that they have plenty going on with the possibility of a new rink in Park River and are trying to get finances in order. Scott explained his worry of only having 1 entity (Blue Line Club) able to back the loan that presents higher risk than the Park Board can handle. The committee discussed alternative plans and agreed that the Blue Line Club should take on the loan themselves. If something goes wrong and gaming revenue declines causing the Blue Line Club to default on the loan then the Park Board would not be left holding the loan, which would be more than the Park Board could afford from their annual budget. Ryer made a motion for the committee to recommend that the loan for the new arena will not be carried by the Grafton Park Board, but the Park Board will form a joint powers agreement with the Grafton Blue Line Club to operate the facility if built. Scott seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.

- III. New Business:
 - i. Bill reported that a family in the campground with a special needs teenager lit the toilet paper dispenser on fire in the men's bathroom in the park. He also tried to light the women's toilet paper dispenser on fire, but had to leave because of the smoke from the 1st fire. He alerted our campground host of the fire and blamed it on other kids in the park. The police department was contacted, and security video was captured onto a jump drive. Found that the special needs teen was the one who started the fire. The police department is looking into filing charges since it is an arson case. The committee agreed not to file charges since they feel it will not help the situation.

- IV. Old Business:
- V. No Public Comments:
- VI. Adjournment: Motion by Ryer, second by Scott, motion passed all approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.