



Wednesday, June 10th, 2015

City Hall/ Second Floor

5:15 p.m.

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Kerry DeMars at 5:15pm
 - A. Board Members Present: Kerry DeMars, Brad Burianek, Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Todd Storey
 - B. Staff Present: Dean Feltman, Kristy Jelinek, Mike Steinfeldt, Doug Johnson
 - C. Media Present: Todd Kjelland
 - D. Other Present: Jack Maus, Barry Kingsbury, Donny Suda, Tom Toreklson, Brian Sieben, Troy Sangrait, Jody LaHaise, Heather Robideaux, Lance Eide, Richie Schumacher, Chris Thompson
- II. No objection to move New Business to the top of the agenda
- III. New Business to address
 - A. Todd Morgan asked if Parks and Rec would write a letter to the City of Grafton granting the Grafton Area Chamber permission to close the park roads on the Saturday of Summerfest. Bill said he would submit the letter to the city. Todd also said there will also be a volleyball tournament that Saturday and he will obtain an alcohol permit for the event.
 - B. High School Arena Contract – Jack Maus said the school board would like to discuss a couple of issues with the way the contract is currently stated. One issue was the time high school hockey practice started. Jack expressed concern that the current stated time was too late to start and were afraid it would discourage players from other towns to join hockey. The high school would like hockey practice to be from 4-6:30 except for Wednesdays from 4-5:30. The second issue Jack addressed was the proposed rental rate. The school board would like to see the arena rent as one grouping that includes both hockey and wrestling, not broken into two different fees. Jack said the school board would like to propose \$25,000 for the 2015-16 year and \$27,520 for 2016-17. He continued that the cost of hockey is expensive for players from other towns who are billed and pay out of pocket to play in Grafton. The third concern was the wrestling program dates to use the loft area, the contract deadline ends before the wrestling camp finishes. Bill asked if the after season youth wrestling program is a school sponsored event and questioned if it was covered under the schools insurance. Jack said it is endorsed by the school and the schools liability insurance would cover the area during that time. Brad asked Jack if he was proposing \$25,000 for the ice rental, Jack said the \$25,000 included the loft and would be looked at as a full arena rental cost. Discussion was had about the arena payment history between Parks and Rec and the GHS. Brad discussed the utility rate increases from 2012 to present day and these increases are a major reason for needing to increase the rental fees for users in the arena. Bill added that GHS rental rates have remained the same for at least 5 years with no increase while Parks and Rec has continued to see increases throughout the years. Bill added that along with the increases Parks and Rec has also continued to increase revenue, without increasing GHS fees, to help offset the higher expenses. Continued discussion was had about financial increases at the Centennial Center. Jack said the GHS board feels the increase was too much at one time and didn't want to see a loft rent and an ice rental, he wanted to see an arena rent. Brad said he felt the increase was not too high and felt Parks and Rec had possibly been too lenient in the past with the fees and are now in a financial pinch. Brad and Jack continued discussion about expenses. Jack said he didn't understand how Parks and Rec expected the school to sign an agreement that they didn't have any say into. Brad said the discussion was happening now and that financially Parks and Rec had little options. Jack suggested Parks and Rec find other uses for the facility since hockey only uses the building 6 months of the year. Brad said Parks and Rec already tries to do that, but are limited to what activities can be held. Brad mentioned possibly the high school would like to run the CC and Parks and Rec would rent the facility from them. He also stated that Parks and Rec was doing their

best to try and hold more events in the CC, but it's not that easy. Bill explained there is no climate control for summer activities and it is difficult to justify purchasing such a system without having a contracted event take place throughout the summer. Barry Kingsbury asked if Parks and Rec had a different proposal to present to the school. Kerry said they did not at this time because they wanted to see what GHS came to Parks and Rec with. Kristy clarified with Jack that the school was proposing \$25,000 for the 2015-16 year and \$27,520 for the 2016-17 year for the arena rental. Jack said yes and Kerry added that the Loft part of the proposed contract would be null and void and the rental agreement would be for the entire facility, Jack said yes. Jack also clarified the time and stated if the school didn't have enough athletes for both a varsity and jv practice that they would cut their practice time down. Brad asked if the school could start at 4:15 instead so youth hockey could potentially squeeze a practice in? Jack explained it wouldn't work with release times from other schools. Barry Kingsbury asked if the players could get in early for Captains Practice as they have in the past. Bill and Kerry both said yes, but that's not a school sanctioned event and that's why it isn't included in the contract. Kerry said the Park Board wasn't ready to make a decision, but would meet again soon with GHS to further discuss the terms brought up by GHS.

- C. Youth Hockey Arena Contract – Troy Sangrait began the discussion by explaining youth hockey felt they already lost the Winter Sports arena and hours of ice time. In 2014-15 they used just over 400 hours of ice, not the 500 stated in the contract and paid the full rental amount. He explained it was very difficult to schedule ice time with limited hours of ice available and it cut down ice time for the termite, mites and squirt groups. He also explained that late practices may begin to affect enrollment numbers because youth hockey also has players from out of town that have long drives and get home late. Kerry explained Parks and Rec is doing what they can to help everyone get the ice time they want, but everyone needed to work together to make that happen. Troy said it didn't make sense to youth hockey how they were getting less hours of ice time yet Parks and Rec was increasing their rent. Jodi LaHaise said it is hard to justify to parents why their fees are increasing, but their ice time was decreasing. Brad said that all contracted hours were taken out of the proposed contracts because an arena costs so much money to run no matter the number of hours it is used. He continued that there are only three main groups using the facility and the cost needed to be split accordingly. Troy asked if the money saved from the WS not opening was being factored into the financials. Todd explained that the reason the WS shut down was because there was no money to maintain it and the same situation was beginning to happen at the CC and that's what Parks and Rec is trying to avoid. Costs need to raise in order to maintain expenses. Scott said he disagreed with youth hockey that they didn't have enough ice time, he said there are early morning and later evening time slots available. Jodi said those times may affect their enrollment numbers with out of town kids. Chris added that those hours are difficult to use while drawing numbers from such a wide area. Chris went on to say Parks and Rec wasn't expecting their programs to use those hours either so why should youth hockey. Brad and Bill said that the figure skaters pay the most per hour for ice time and that they already take some early hours. Chris clarified that the arena runs at a deficit and stated that Parks and Rec was looking at youth hockey and the school to help cover that deficit. He asked if any other facilities were losing money and if so if the cost of those programs were also going up the same amount as the proposed costs to youth hockey and the school. Kerry and Bill said every year different fees go up in different areas, but the area of concern with the CC was losing the arena to neglect and that a capital improvement fund needed to be started to make sure that doesn't happen. Discussion continued about Parks and Rec financials. Chris continued that he felt Parks and Rec needed to be more consistent across the board and raise all fees instead of expecting youth hockey and the school to subsidize the CC. More discussion was had about financials. Jack said he felt the Profit and Loss statements were not true comparisons given that the WS wouldn't open, Bill said there are still costs associated with the WS to own the building, Chris said the arena committee was waiting for some budgetary numbers on the WS before a decision was made about what to do with that facility. Bill asked Jack if his statement, when the two of them met, still stood that the school was no longer willing to work with Parks and Rec and the handshake agreements the two groups have had for so long regarding athletic fields, etc. Jack said he felt those agreements were beneficial to both groups and they should continue them. Bill said he agreed, but wanted a clarification from Jack. Discussion

continued about the agreements between Parks and Rec and GHS. Kerry stated again that Parks and Rec was not ready to change the proposed agreements at this time and another meeting would be set up with both groups for further discussion. Todd asked if youth hockey had a counter proposal to the contract. Troy said youth hockey is willing to pay what they have in the past, \$31,500, with a 2-3 year contract. Todd asked if they could agree to a certain percentage of an increase. Jodi said youth hockey felt they already were conceding with the loss of the WS and ice hours. Bill discussed other hockey programs and what they pay for ice hours. Discussion continued about ice hours and fees associated with them. Bill stated that Parks and Rec really couldn't extend a contract beyond 2 years due to the fact that the utility contract with the city is up in 2017. More discussion was had about Parks and Rec financials. Chris asked if Parks and Rec could ask the City of Grafton for a larger decrease on the utility agreement. Bill told Chris Parks and Rec was in a contract until 2017 with the city on the utility agreement. Bill asked Brian Sieben for a clarification about the rate increases regarding utilities for the next year. Brian said those rates would increase 10-15%. Chris still feels it would be worthwhile for Parks and Rec to ask. Kerry said the Park Board would like to sit together and discuss the proposed changes to the contracts and meet again.

IV. Motion by Brad and second by Scott to approve the May 13th minutes, motion passed. Authorization of expenditures was discussed and was approved with a motion by Scott and second by Brad. The bank statement report was distributed.

V. Reports:

A. Director

1. Arenas
 - i. Still waiting for the CC fire exit doors from Pastorek's.
2. Parks
3.
 - i. Duck Derby the Sunday of Summerfest. Kristy handed out duck derby raffle tickets to sell.
 - ii. Relay for Life went well
4. Campground
 - i. Cabin 3 and 5 are open and 4 should be ready by Monday. The Welcome Center doors are still not in. He is still waiting for Pastorek's to let him know.
 - ii. Received the final check for the campground Expansion Grant.
5. Athletic Fields
 - i. Cory asked if there was a door broken at the Complex. Bill said yes, a child locked themselves in the bathroom and the police ripped out the lock. Now the door needed to be replaced and installed. Kerry asked Bill to speak to the City about paying for the damages. Bill said a claim will be filed with State Fire and Tornado.
6. Pool
 - i. Chlorinator is in, working out the kinks, but overall is working well. Readings are on target.
7. Elmwood
 - i. Red River Regional Council contacted the Elmwood Board and Parks and Rec about working together to remove weeds from along the river and the old trails with grant money. The grant will supply the money for chemicals and Parks and Rec will provide In-kind hours.

B. Business Manager

1. Audit
 - i. It is almost complete and went well

C. Recreations/Facilities Manager

1. Summer Programs
 - i. Summer programs in full swing. Fast pitch program is full, golf is full, acro camp is almost full. Looking at hosting 2 adventure camps later in the summer. Scott asked who the golf

coach was, Mike said Kinzie Molde. Kristy said 2 sessions of golf were added to accommodate the need. She also said swimming lessons are all full so they are looking at adding additional swimming lessons later in the summer.

VI. Old Business:

A. A committee meeting will be held regarding the arena contracts Thursday, June 11 at 12:00pm

VII. No Public Comments:

VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Brad, second by Scott, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm