

Western Ada Recreation District
Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2018 Regular Business Meeting

In Attendance:

Shaun Wardle, Director
Tyler Rountree, Director
Colin Moss, Director
Carol White, Secretary-Treasurer
Janea Walker, Pool Manager
Rob Cleve, Facilities Manager

Other Attendees:

Mayor Tammy de Weerd, City of Meridian
Mike Barton, Parks Department City of Meridian
Patty Bowen, Meridian Press Reporter
Ema Brenneman
Johnna Brock

The meeting was called to order by Director Wardle at 12:05pm.

Item 1: Approve the Agenda

Director Moss moved that the board approve the agenda as presented; Director Rountree seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Item 2: Consent Agenda

Director Moss moved that the board approve the consent agenda; Director Rountree seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Item 3: Action Items (none)

Item 4: Discussion of Fuller Park transfer to the City of Meridian

Director Wardle said this been an item of discussion at WARD a number of times over the years. We have formalized the discussion by putting it on the agenda and having a brief discussion with city council about the topic. Generally the city council is open to discussion on the item. The city council has concerns about needed capital improvements at the park including restrooms, fencing, structures and ADA accessibility. WARD does not have a long term capital improvement plan.

Mike Barton with the City of Meridian discussed a city prepared report on what it would cost the city to operate Fuller Park. The costs were similar to what it costs WARD now to operate the park.

Mayor de Weerd said there have been many conversations in the past with regard to transferring Fuller Park to the city and how this would impact WARD and the city. A lot of people think that Fuller Park is a city park as it is a public park and a community park; it made sense to start having conversations about

how we can get the parks under one umbrella and separate it from the pool side. If the park were transferred to the city the park costs would be absorbed into the city budget. The city would like to see a cost savings to taxpayers by reducing the mill right levy of WARD by the amount of park expenditures. The city's team went out with director Wardle to take a look at the park and see if there are going to be additional costs in bringing it up to ADA requirements. She said that recent park improvements are phenomenal, but fencing and ADA improvements are needed.

Mike Barton said that the cost of these improvements is approximately \$400,000. This is not an item that would delay a transfer if both bodies are interested in a transfer.

Director Wardle said our legal counsel has given us approval that we can transfer items to another public entity. One of the items we have discussed is timing of the transfer. If we can transfer the asset on the budget year, October 1, 2018, could we transfer the amount of our budgeted park cost to the city and reduce our budget for the park in future years?

Director Wardle discussed the timing of the transfer to the park and the amount of WARD budgeted funds for FY2019 for the park.

Director Rountree asked if we were only talking about the park and what the long term plan for the pool would be. He asked if the city was only interested in the park.

Mayor Tammy de Weerd said that right now parks are in their wheelhouse - pools are not. The city council has a split opinion at this point. Some want all or nothing, some want phased approach, others see clear separation of parks and the pool. This would be something to have further conversation on and only if we are interested. She does not know what the level of interest with the city is at this point.

Director Wardle went on to elaborate saying that there were six different opinions of six different council members at the city council meeting. This purpose of this meeting is not to formalize anything but to have discussion about what we can take to the council. If approved we would seek formal action.

Director Moss said he was an employee of the City of Meridian Parks Department and that he would be remaining silent for most of the discussions on the issue and abstaining from votes.

Director Rountree said it made sense in both worlds but he would hope to get something pinned down as far as the pool goes. He said that it is confusing to live in the City of Meridian and have a pool surrounded by city parks that aren't incorporated into the city. It is confusing to have Fuller Park and not have it be a city park with the same rules and regulations. The assets as a whole will at some point need to be acquired by the city. Phasing would be OK.

Mayor de Weerd said the city has a capital improvement plan full of needs that don't have funding. When the city takes the assets they don't take the mill rate with it. This would be a topic of affordability. Parks is the third in line of priority; the first priority is public safety. This is a more complicated discussion to see if revenues could do it justice. The improvement that we have made is something that the community has celebrated and appreciated but she doesn't know it that is something that the city could wrap into its current budget limitations.

Director Rountree said this is not a tax savings but a tax shift. The City of Meridian is going to have to absorb the cost. It is a shift of money. The expenses are ultimately going to get paid somehow.

Mayor de Weerd said there is going to be a tax savings on the park end. On the pool end there would be a tax shift but she is unsure of how the city would be able to afford it with the current constraints. She said the park would wrap nicely into their parks department.

Director Wardle discussed impacts to the public. WARD has spent the majority of capital reserves on the pool facility and the restrooms at Fuller Park. The city can put capital into Fuller Park and the public can see impact right away. There would also be operational efficiency by having the city manage the park.

Director Rountree said we need to figure out where second step is and that we need to pin down step two. Long term there needs to be a discussion of how that looks and we need an answer more than maybe.

Director Moss asked if we would be agreeing to pay for projects that are needed at the park.

Director Wardle said we would provide FY2019 budgeted funds to the city and then it would be up to the city to do their assessment of what was needed.

Director Moss clarified that \$276,575 is park budget that is going to be proposed to give to the city and it would be up to the city to decide what capital improvements they might want to make to bring it up to ADA standards.

Rob Cleve and Mike Barton discussed the current condition of the park and repairs and improvements needed.

Director Wardle, Director Moss and Mayor de Weerd discussed the process of approving an action item and taking it to city council for approval.

Item 5: Departmental Reports

A) Pool Manager Report

Janae discussed LS audit and results. We did very well on our audit. Concessions are going well and we will need another freezer in the future to hold ice cream. Janae discussed the number of kids in each of swim lesson session so for this year (over 3000 total for sessions 1-5). The pool will be hosting a documentary filming in August based on a true life story of refugee children learning to swim. The pool will be hosting a swim clinic the day after filming. Janae discussed staffing for fall and fall pool hours.

B) Park Manager Report

Rob discussed issue with geese, safety concerns, and chemical inventory.

a. Fuller Park Restroom Project Update

Rob discussed power and irrigation issues at the park. Rob discussed color schemes for the restroom. Rob will meet with Crane soon regarding video surveillance at the park. Rob disposed of two mowers and replaced them with one new machine.

Rob discussed the small parcel that we have in Settler's Village and looking into repairs to this property to make it sellable.

b. Pool Building Issues

A light has broken in the kitty pool but all cleanup has been completed. Two slides were leaking at the pool which caused increased leakage into the parking lot, but Rob has repaired them. The board reviewed and discussed two proposals from Brecken and Land Group for pool deck drain solutions. Rob said we had an inspection from Central District Health and passed.

c. Fuller Park Maintenance

Fuller Park maintenance was discussed under item "a" above.

C) Secretary/Treasurer Report

Carol said that our budget hearing is August 15th, 2018. We are going to need to amend the current budget based on current year financials. This will need to be done before the end of this fiscal year.

Director Moss asked where lifeguard revenue was listed. Director Moss also inquired about concessions inventory expense. Janae clarified that we had a lot of inventory on hand.

Carol discussed new open meeting laws and action items. We have an option to put up all of our meeting dates and a referral back to our website for agendas. The board clarified what we could do going forward for meeting notices. Carol discussed additional email account needs for the district. Carol presented a payment of \$110,881.52 for construction on the new restroom at Fuller Park. The architect has approved this progress payment.

The board discussed bees at the pool and what could be done to safely remove the bees.

Item 6: Budget Workshop

Carol discussed the maximum budget and what had been done in prior years. Last year the board decided to lower the budget. This year we are not taking any increase and will have a budget of \$862,000. Carol discussed foregone amounts and levies.

Director Wardle discussed the options and his preference to budget for \$862,000 in tax revenue.

Director Moss discussed future plans for another pool and how we would plan and budget for expansion.

Director Rountree and Director Moss agree with Director Wardle's suggestion for the budget.

Mayor de Weerd discussed impact fees and a capital improvement plan.

The board discussed improvements and projects for the upcoming year, including a new shade structure at the pool and new diving blocks. The board discussed new computers needed at the pool. The board also discussed supplies, chlorine and repair and maintenance needs at the pool.

Janae discussed ASL classes that we host at the pool and the budget line for this service. The board briefly discussed ADA requirements.

The board discussed goose management at Fuller Park and the costs.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

Director Moss discussed the feasibility study and that the engineering firm will be passing us on to Stately Engineering.

Item 8: Executive Session

Hearing no further regular business, Director Wardle moved that the board enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Statute 74-206(a) and 74-206(b). Director Moss seconded. Director Wardle called for a roll call vote to enter executive session: Director Rountree, aye; Director Moss, aye; Director Wardle; aye. The board entered Executive Session at 1:43pm.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Hearing no other business, Director Wardle adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ema Brenneman
Secretary Treasurer
Western Ada Recreation District.