



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Council Session

Item G2

Approving Minutes of November 16, 2004 City Council Study Session

*The Minutes of November 16, 2004 City Council Study Session are submitted for approval.
See attached MINUTES.*

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

November 16, 2004

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on November 16, 2004. Notice of the meeting was given in the Grand Island Independent on November 10, 2004.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Cornelius, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Public Works Director Steve Riehle, Finance Director David Springer, and City Attorney Doug Walker

Mayor Communication: Mayor Vavricek commented on the following:

- Police Officer Steve Rathman's convalescence at St. Francis and the Coin Drive on his behalf from a hit and run motor vehicle accident.
- Homecoming for LCpl Marcus Martinez on Friday, November 19, 2004 at Central Plains Chapter of the Red Cross.
- Saturday, November 20, 2004 Fine Arts Performance at College Park.
- Recognized Councilmember Bob Meyer, Fred Whitesides, and Don Pauly who served in the Armed Forces.

Presentation of Aquatic Study: Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director reported that in June, 2004 the City Council entered into an agreement with The C.T. Brannon Corporation of Tyler, Texas to prepare a study of aquatic facilities in Grand Island. Mr. Paustian introduced Calvin "Terry" Brannon, Aquatic Consultant with The C.T. Brannon Corporation.

Mr. Brannon complemented the City on the water park and that the City was on the leading edge of these types of facilities. Presented were the findings of the study. The study was broken down into the following phases:

- Facility Inventory
- Public Participation
- Needs Assessment
- Construction Methods
- None Construction Methods

The following specific needs were presented and discussed:

Lincoln Pool – pool is obsolete in its design and poorly attended, but has broad community support in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Recommended keeping open thru 2005, replace with

modern pool, add the following features: shade, play features, children's play, zero entry, new bath house.

Island Oasis – recommended an ambitious ten year plan with new features, remove outdated features, and expand. Expansion ideas included addition of a children's water park with children's themes, a thrill ride called a Master Blaster, a roller coaster tube slide, additional restroom facilities, addition of a large group pavilion, multi-level play area, add bowl slide, and a lagoon pool suitable for median to older adults.

Capital Heights – recommended immediate creation of a joint facilities committee to advance the idea of a common facility for housing recreation needs in addition to therapeutic, leisure, and competition aquatics. Recommended the facility be furnished with two or more indoor pools and an outdoor leisure pool.

L.E. Ray Lake – recommended swimming be suspended and the facility be developed as a recreational area with RV camping, pad camping, picnicking, walking trails, and fishing and boating. Recommended construction of an improved boat ramp and parking area for vehicles with boat trailers.

Pier Park, Grace Abbott Park, Stolley Park and Lincoln Park – recommended gradually converting the shallow, splash-wading pools to non-ponded splash play-grounds with appropriate interactive fountains and play platforms over the next 10 to 12 years.

Non-Structural Issues – recommendations to the staff on day-to-day management of the pools, especially with regard to marketing.

Discussed was the top priority of C.T. Brannon to fix Lincoln Pool with regards to the cloudy water caused by the filtration system. Neighborhood pools were discussed. Typically pools do not make money, but are a benefit to the citizens of the City.

Mr. Paustian commented that this issue would be brought back to Council for a decision of whether or not to follow this study and continue with a program for improving the aquatic facilities within the City.

Presentation of One and Five Year Plan for Sidewalk Installation: Steve Riehle, Public Works Director reported that City staff reviewed maps using the Geographic Information System that showed areas having sidewalks and areas lacking sidewalks. The review concentrated on pedestrian traffic generators, in fill gaps, and walks along busy streets.

Mr. Riehle stated staff could administer approximately 25,000 feet of sidewalk each year or approximately 150 properties. With 619,041 feet of sidewalk remaining, it would take 20 to 25 additional years to complete.

Reviewed were the major areas for sidewalk in the One and Five Year Plan. Mr. Riehle stated the intent was to bring this issue to a future council meeting for the approval of the proposed 2005 and 2006 Sidewalk Plan. It was the consensus of Council to bring back the 2005 and 2006

Sidewalk Plan for Council approval at the November 23, 2004 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion was held concerning water and sewer services and widening Capital Avenue and the installation of sidewalks. It was recommended that a sidewalk on one side of the street in all areas of Grand Island be encouraged.

City Administrator Gary Greer recommended giving residents six months instead of one year to put in their sidewalks. Several Councilmembers commented against shortening the time frame. Also discussed was the cost of sidewalks which was between \$8.00 - \$10.00 per running foot if installed by a contractor and half that cost if the homeowner did the work themselves. Chad Naby, Regional Planning Director commented on the size of lots. It was suggested that Public Works send letters to those homeowners a year or two in advance to let them know when sidewalks would be required. Craig Lewis, Building Department Director commented that regulations required new construction to put in sidewalks.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk