



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Study Session

Item -1

Discussion Concerning Heartland Shooting Facility

Staff Contact: Steve Paustian

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting: January 18, 2005

Subject: Heartland Public Shooting Park-Staffing and Naming

Item #'s: 1

Presenter(s): Steve Paustian, Parks and Recreation Director

Background

The Park and Recreation Department has been in the planning and developmental phase of the Heartland Public Shooting Park for over six years. Phase one of the construction plan has been completed. Phase one consisted of trap, skeet and sporting clays ranges along with support facilities including a main clubhouse and several support buildings.

Phase two construction is set to start in March, weather permitting. Phase two will include the construction of all pistol and rifle ranges along with the necessary support facilities and a seven acre lake. Phase three will include the construction of a modern campground. Construction of phase two is currently planned for fiscal year 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 assuming funding is available.

Discussion

Currently the shotgun shooting venues are in full operation. Leagues have been started, open shooting is available four days a week and numerous special events are in the planning stages. The volunteers currently operating the facility have requested that the City consider hiring a Shooting Park Superintendent in the near future. Staff has advised Council from the initial discussions of the project that additional staffing would be required to operate the facility as it develops. The Department had planned on hiring staff as phase two neared completion. Representative of the volunteer group are interested in seeing this position filled now. The volunteers may be willing to fund the salary of a Superintendents position for the next year or until phase two is completed. Representatives of the volunteer group will be present at the study session to outline their request and lay out their proposal.

An additional item of discussion includes the naming of the Skeet Range portion of the facility in honor of Virgil Eihusen. Mr. Eihusen donated \$300,000.00 toward the construction of the skeet ranges. This funding was critical to the construction of this element of the new shooting facility. Once again representatives of the volunteer group will address Council to further explain this request.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.

It is the intent of City Administration to bring this issue to a future council meeting.