



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Study Session

Item -1

**Presentation and Discussion of Master Plan for Veterans Home
Athletic Complex**

Staff Contact: Jeff Pederson

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jeff Pederson, City Administrator

Meeting: May 19, 2009

Subject: Presentation and Discussion of Master Plan for Veterans Home Athletic Complex

Item #'s: 1

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

Background

In conjunction with the securing of the lease from the State of Nebraska for approximately 78 acres of land immediately south of Eagle Scout Lake, a Master Plan has been formulated for the development of replacement athletic facilities for those being displaced at Fonner Park by the location of the Nebraska State Fair. The Master Plan has been developed by Olsson & Associates with participation by the Department of Parks & Recreation, and has been funded by the Nebraska State Fair.

Discussion

The primary focus of the Master Plan process has been with replacing the amount of facilities from Fonner Park, with supporting infrastructure. Because of the size of the tract of land that is under lease, additional/future facilities development possibilities were included in the Master Plan. As the Council is aware, the cost estimate that has been in use for replacement of lost facilities and supporting infrastructure is \$1.5 million. The planning process for this project has included recognition of the possibility of reusing some of the existing apparatus from the Fonner Park facilities. Along with presentation of the Master Plan, information will be brought forward at the Study Session relative to the current cost projection and the need for equipment reuse.

LB 224 is scheduled for Final Reading on Monday. Should that Bill be passed, the City would have the ability to count up to \$1.5 million in capital outlay for this prospective project towards the city contribution that is required to become the new host City for the Nebraska State Fair. Discussion will also take place regarding options to finance the project.

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 for action on the project proposal.