

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, September 18, 2017

Regular Meeting

Item Pub. Hear.2

Council to conduct a public hearing to consider amending the Parks and Recreation section of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Staff Contact: Annie Folck, City Planner

Excerpt from 9/11/17 Planning Commission Meeting

ITEM 7C: The Planning Commission opened a public hearing to consider an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Annie Folck gave a staff review of the project, stating that it has been brought to the City's attention that the current Comprehensive Plan does not address the City's competition fields. Feedback from the public has indicated that there are improvements needed in order to provide a more comfortable space for spectators and visiting teams, ensuring that competitions and tournaments continue to be held in Scottsbluff. This will also help support the local economy as visiting teams support restaurants and lodging establishments. Some representatives of 23 Club are working on a grant for improvements to the 23 Club facilities, which is a City-owned facilities, and are requesting a change to the Comprehensive Plan to include suggestions for improvements to these facilities.

Folck stated that one of the benefits of doing a Comprehensive Plan in-house is that she was able to go back and look at the raw data and survey results that were obtained as part of the public input process for the City's current Comp plan. In looking at this information, there were several comments made pertaining to the importance of maintaining City facilities and making them comfortable for families with children. The importance of adequate restrooms and well-maintained equipment was repeatedly stated. There were also comments about the importance of baseball and softball facilities to our community, both for recreation for area residents and as an attraction for people coming from other communities for tournaments. For this reason, staff was recommending an amendment to the plan to include the suggested goals and projects for 23 Club. Folck also said that they were adding an item in the plan to address the septic tank at Lacy Park which is currently not adequate to serve the needs of the restroom facilities out there.

Linda Redfern stated that in years past when she was on Council, the need for good parks and recreation amenities was in line with the mission statement that the City adopted, as well as with the goals set out in their Vision 2020 planning. She was happy to see that there is some progress being made on these goals. Commissioner Aguillo stated that the item about Lacy Park appeared to be redundant, as the need for a new septic system was already listed in the suggested capital improvements in the plan. Folck stated that the second item addressing Lacy Park could be removed.

Commissioner Weber asked about costs for the project, and what the costs to the City would be if the amendment was approved. Jack Baker, representing the 23 Club, stated that the group was working with the City to apply for a \$150,000 grant. He stated that the City is actually the grant applicant, and the mayor has already signed a letter of support for the grant that commits the City to provide the grant match and in-kind support to the project. He stated that there will also be private fundraising to help support the project as well. The grant will be for the first phase of the suggested improvements to 23 Club, which will be for a new building, which will provide a better space for concessions, changing spaces for teams, ADA compliant restrooms, and storage for equipment. Commissioner Westphal asked if there was a design for the improvements. Baker stated that they had a rough concept showing the footprint of the building and the dimensions of the amenities within the building, but they do not have a finalized design yet.

Conclusion: A motion was made by Zitterkopf and seconded by Aguillo to approve the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the condition that the second item addressing the septic system in Lacy Park be removed to avoid redundancy. **"YEAS":** Gompert, Westphal, Wayman, Huber, Weber, Zitterkopf, Chadwick, Aguillo, and Estrada. **"NAYS":** None. **ABSTAIN:** None **ABSENT:** None. Motion carried.