

TOWN OF HUDSON – PUBLIC HEARING (PARTF)

April 2, 2019

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, Commissioners: Larry Chapman, Jonathan Greer, Barry Mitchell, Rick Shew and Bill Warren

Members Absent: Commissioner Ann Smith

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Recreation Director, Chuck Raby, Community & Economic Development Administrator (WPCOG) Erin Schotte, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Mayor Janet Winkler called the meeting to order, and Mayor Pro Tem, Bill Warren, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.

Public Hearing: PARTF Grant Application:

Janet welcomed the audience to the public hearing, and asked for people who speak to state their name for the record. Janet asked for a motion to open the public hearing.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Rick Shew) to open the floor for public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Erin Schotte addressed the Board to explain that this is basically the same project that was applied for last year. The amount being requested is \$445,160, with the Town’s match being \$222,580. Erin commented that with this application we need to hear more from the community about the Town’s recreational facilities and needs.

Chuck stated that we finished 30th with last year’s application, which was 5 spots away from receiving a grant. Chuck commented that although there were items missing from the application last year, he believes we have a good application this year. Chuck presented a list of projects with costs. He commented that the Optimist Park would be brought up to ADA standards, and there are good future projects that McGill & Associates have put together for us showing our hopes for the future. Since the ballfield fencing at the park has been there for

Project Costs
Optimist Park Redevelopment - Town of Hudson
March 2018

Project Elements (include specific units – sizes, numbers, lengths, etc. – for each item.)	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Building and/or Renovating Costs			
Site Development	Lump Sum	\$52,000	\$62,000
Demolition	Lump Sum	\$23,100	\$23,100
Concessions/Press Box/Restroom Building	Lump Sum	\$174,100	\$174,100
Bleacher Renovation	Lump Sum	\$24,000	\$24,000
Pedestrian Walk Areas	Lump Sum	\$50,000	\$50,000
Field Renovation	Lump Sum	\$32,000	\$32,000
Playground	Lump Sum	\$30,000	\$30,000
12'x12' Picnic Shelter	Lump Sum	\$18,000	\$18,000
Gaming Center with Bocce and Cornhole	Lump Sum	\$6,000	\$6,000
Cost to Build or Renovate			\$419,200
Contingency for the Cost of Building / Renovating			
Contingency	5%		\$20,960
Planning and Incidental Land Acquisition Costs			
Cost of preparing the application	Lump Sum	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Project Cost			\$445,160
Total PARTF Grant Request			\$222,580
Total Local Match			\$222,580

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over 25 years and does not meet code, redoing the fencing and concrete is very important. Other needs that would be addressed include new bathrooms, new concessions, a picnic shelter, a small playground area for kids, and a gaming center with bocce ball and cornhole. Chuck commented that bocce ball is a game that is included in the Special Olympics, and since we help with Special Olympics, this will be a great addition for us. He added that the Senior Game also include bocce ball. Chuck also commented that our Recreation Department is now running the Hudson Baseball program, and updating this facility is a necessity.

Janet asked if there is going to be a walking track included in the projects.

Chuck explained that the walking track is a future project.

Skip Downs, a resident of Town and former Town Commissioner, asked about funding for the project. He stated that he supports the project, and he realizes how important recreation facilities are to our community. He added, however, that he also realizes there has to be money available to fund the project.

Janet mentioned that we are planning to have fundraising events, etc. to help with the costs.

Chuck stated that our goal is to raise \$80,000 per year for a three-year period. He commented that we are fortunate to have our current recreational facilities. The community and the Town have been generous over the years, helping to raise a lot of money for recreation.

Skip Downs asked if we will be getting money from operating concessions at the Park.

Chuck stated that currently, the Optimist Club has the rights to concessions per our agreement with them. When they no long want to operate concessions, we will take over.

Steve Minton, a resident of Hudson and member of the Recreation Advisory Committee, asked if the concessions are not run efficiently, can the Town take over.

Chuck explained that it was in our agreement with the Optimist Club when we took over operation of the Park that they would continue to operate concessions for as long as they would like.

Jimmy Hemphill, a resident of Hudson and former Town Commissioner, asked about selling fence signage at the Park as a fundraiser.

Chuck stated that the fence signage also belongs to the Optimist Club.

Skip Downs asked about programs offered at Optimist Park, i.e., football, etc.

Chuck stated that the football program still operates under the Optimist Club, and the fields are available for the Town's programs as well.

Jimmy Hemphill stated that the Town's facilities, including the Recreation Center, the Town Hall and HUB Station, buildings A & B, are well cared for, and are first class" facilities. He commented that the Optimist Park currently looks very "tired," and needs a major overhaul. Jimmy added that the citizens of Hudson have come to expect the Town's facilities to look presentable, safe and up-to-date. He stated that he supports the efforts of this grant 150%. Jimmy added that he believes the Town will capitalize from having the Optimist Park, and the Town is fortunate to have it. Jimmy stated again that the people of Hudson strive for excellence, and to reach this goal, we need our share of PARTF taxpayer dollars back in our Town.

Jerry Triplett, a resident of Hudson and a member of the Hudson Optimist Club, stated that on behalf of the Club, he would like to thank the Town for stepping in to help. He stated that the Club membership has aged over the years and was becoming less and less in number. Jerry commented that the Optimist Club is not proud of the condition the Park is in, but they were doing what they could do under the circumstances.

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Chuck mentioned that the men who started the Optimist Park built the foundation for the Park, and now they need us to carry it on. He stated that he is sure they would like to be here now to help with this new project.

Steve Minton stated that he moved to Hudson in 1963, and at that time, the Optimist Club was the place to be. He stated that he would like for this facility to be inviting again. The McCreary Family Recreation & Fitness Center is a showplace and something to be proud of. The Optimist Park can be made into a showplace as well. Steve stated that as a citizen of Hudson and a member of the Recreation Advisory Board, he totally supports this project.

David Seagle, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board, commented that the Advisory Board typically meets at least once per week to discuss what is going on in the Recreation Department as well as the status of the budget. He stated that Hudson is competing with neighboring towns that have more money for recreation. He added, however, that Hudson seems to win the popularity contests each year for having the best park in the county. David commented that the Town and the Recreation Department do an amazing job providing recreation for the public, especially considering their budget for recreation.

Ron Beane, a member of the Town's HUB Station Steering Committee, commented that recreation facilities are important in communities where people are looking for new homes. Recreation not only provides physical activity for the community, but it also brings the people closer and basically helps build the Town.

Rebecca Bentley stated that Hudson was incorporated as a town in March of 1905, and at that time, the community was basically supported by the cotton mill. She stated that over the years, the mill has continued to be a part of Hudson, and we were fortunate that the Hudson Optimist Club was willing to allow us to have the Optimist Park property in an effort to keep the mill. She explained that public entities operate under different standards than the Optimist Club, and once we took over the Park, we had no choice but to make plans to update it. Without these updates, the Town cannot operate the Park.

Rebecca discussed problems with our last application. She stated that we failed to include the Town's CIP in the minutes; however, the CIP will be included with this application. Rebecca mentioned that her children participated in programs at Optimist Park, along with many, many other children. She added that approximately 60 years ago, school students built the bleachers at Optimist Park, and we're using those same bleachers today. The Park is a "diamond in the rough," and the Town has an opportunity to get it fixed at half price.

Rebecca mentioned that we have surveys pertaining to the project, and she encouraged everyone to fill one out. She added that based on comments she has heard from the public, she feels certain the community is in support of this project. The Hudson Optimist Park is important to the people of Hudson.

Close Public Hearing:

Motion: (Bill Warren/Rick Shew) to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved.

Motion to Support PARTF Application:

Motion: (Rick Shew/Bill Warren) to support the PARTF Grant Application for Optimist Park. Unanimously approved.

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Janet thanked everyone who came out to support this endeavor. She commented that Hudson is a first class community.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Jonathan Greer) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously Approved.

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Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk