

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 2023

In Attendance:

Members Present: Commissioners: Larry Chapman, Jim Engelman, Jeff Link, and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Jonathan Greer, Recreation Director, Chuck Raby, and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 noon at the Optimist Park facility.

Update on Playground & Shelter Area:

Chuck stated that the installation of the playground equipment is almost complete. He commented that the playground is being sponsored by Terry and Kim Fowler in memory of their son, Josh Fowler. Chuck added that a sign will be placed in the playground in Josh's memory.

Chuck also stated that the concrete slab has been poured for the shall shelter area across the walkway from the playground. He commented that this area should be completed soon.

Discussion of PARTF Project Deadline:

Both Jonathan and Chuck discussed the progress that has been made in getting the Optimist Park Project completed; the block is in for the bleachers, fence posts are in, and the front pad is poured. There is still work to be done in completing the indoor batting cage that will be located between the two fields, and for the interior of the building with the concession stand and bathrooms. Jonathan commented that the deadline for completing the project is May 30th.

Jonathan stated that the project began in 2018/2019, at a project cost of \$445,160, with the Town's portion being \$225,580. He commented that due to delays, which have included COVID, weather, and material shortages, the cost of the project is expected to increase at least \$125,000 from the original cost. Jonathan added that the additional costs will have to be covered by the Town. He stated that during our budget process, we can talk about the increased costs, and about adding fees for use of the Optimist Park fields.

Operation of the Concession Stand: Chuck stated that the Optimist Club will be operating the concession stand for the Town's programs, and for their programs. The Town will be operating the concession stand for anything outside our programs and the Optimist Club programs. Chuck explained that this agreement was made between the Town and the Optimist Club when the Town took over the Park. The Optimist Club also retained management of the Optimist Club building.

Chuck stated that when college teams, etc., use the facility, the teams will handle and collect for tickets for the games.

Repair of Roof at Recreation Center:

Jonathan stated that we continue to have issues with the roof at the Recreation Center, and we have received an estimate of \$150,000 for replacing the roof. Chuck contacted Statesville Roofing for an estimate, and they,

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after looking at the roof, submitted an estimate of approximately \$20,000 for repairing the roof. Jonathan stated that we currently have \$30,000 available in the Recreation Dept.'s budget for replacing an HVAC unit. Jonathan stated that Chuck had checked on a cost and possible delivery date for an HVAC unit, and was given an estimate of \$54,000, with at least a 200 day's lead time for a replacement unit. Since the HVAC is currently doing good, and delivery time for a replacement HVAC would be during next year's budget, Jonathan asked if the money we currently have budgeted for the HVAC could be used for making the roof repairs. He commented that if we do experience problems with the HVAC, we can address them as they occur. Jonathan added that \$5,000 was also allocated in the budget for roof sealant. The unused sealant can be returned to the supplier for a credit on our account.

Motion: (Jeff Link/Larry Chapman) to repair the roof at the Recreation Center with the funds available in the Recreation Dept's. budget for the HVAC. Unanimously approved.

Discuss Restrooms at Main Shelter – Redwood Park:

Jonathan stated that there is a leak in the wall of the restrooms at the main shelter at Redwood Park. These restrooms were built in 1973, and are on a septic system instead of the sewer system. Jonathan commented that repairing these restrooms could be costly and time consuming since we don't know the status of the septic system, and what all may be involved with making the repairs. Jonathan suggested that since we have other restrooms available in the Park and in the Recreation Center, we may want to consider tearing down these bathrooms, along with the large shelter area, and replace them with 4 small individual shelter areas. These shelter areas would be like the small shelter area being built at Optimist Park, and would cost approximately \$5,000 each. Jonathan stated that we would talk more about this idea during our budget meetings.

Update: CCC & TI Softball Team calling Optimist Park Home:

Jeff stated as he had mentioned before, CCC & TI Softball Team is interested in playing games at Optimist Park, and calling Optimist Park their home field. He stated that currently the Team uses a field in Lenoir as their home field, and even though they have no problems playing in Lenoir, the college is located in the Town of Hudson, and they consider Hudson their home. Jeff discussed the team's season, and potential tournaments that would bring a lot of visitors into Town.

Jeff stated that Chuck has been meeting with the Team's coach, Scott Triplett, to discuss use of the fields, and he added that he is working on a letter to the college pertaining to the Team using Optimist Park as their home field. He stated that he would continue to give updates as things progressed.

Tour of the Facility:

The Committee took a tour of the facility to see the progress that is being made to complete the project.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Jeff Link/Larry Chapman) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk