

## **FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022; 8:00 am**

**Depot Board Room**

Attended: Commissioner Dawn Morgan, Commissioner Stacey Griggs, Dave Leker, Carolyn Boutain, Dave Bietz, Broc Lietz, Luke Evenson, Jodi Meisch (Audubon Dakota), Cindy Boettcher

Absent: Commissioner Vicki Dawson, Brian Arett

Item #4 was moved up to item #1.

### **Review memo of Understanding with Audubon Dakota regarding the Southwest Regional Lake area and Urban Plains Park.**

Dave Bietz and Jodi Meisch (Audubon Dakota), presenters.

This Memo of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement between the Fargo Park District and Audubon Dakota. The agreement allows enrollment of certain property into the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. The property is the area around the Southwest Regional Lake and portions of Urban Plains Park. The Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative is a program that began in 2014. The program integrates native landscapes back into urban landscapes by restoring wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland areas in an urban landscape, primarily focused on enhancing habitat for target bird species and increasing flood resiliency and water quality. The Park District has partnered with Audubon Dakota on several sites across the district totaling over 400 acres.

The goal of this is to partner with Audubon Dakota on two different properties. One would be at the SW Regional Lakes area. Everywhere inside where the water would bounce, we would do native grass plantings in the entire basin. The city is aware of this and is in support of this.

The other area would be around the south portion of Urban Plains Park, and we would plant wildflowers. We will be doing some test spots at Rose Creek golf course and the N. Softball Complex this year. Dave Leker asked what we would use for these plantings whether it be seed or plugs and Jodi mentioned the best way is to take the plugs that have already started growing and they would have a better success rate this way. The goal is to get a continuous bloom year-round. Jodi also mentioned Audubon Dakota has many volunteers to assist our forestry team.

The wildflowers will need to be watered the first couple of weeks and can take up to 5 years to fully mature.

Dave Bietz stated we would need to source seed and plants from this area and not look to far away, as that is a vital component due to our climate here. We also want a variety of species.

Commissioner Griggs asked about the species of what is being planted and if there is a site to look at them. Jodi Meisch will gather and share this information, and we will have signage available to read about the plants and furnish a plant list and/or a link to the Audubon Dakota site, and possibly a QR code for the public to scan. The public likes to know about the new information in the parks. Having

these wildflowers planted can save on maintenance costs long term and we will also have a story to share for the public.

The Committee recommends this item for the Consent agenda.

**Review Bids for pickleball courts expansion at Brunsdale Park.**

Dave Bietz, presenter.

The Brunsdale Pickleball Court bids were received and opened on Thursday, April 14th, 2022, 2:00 pm, at the Park District Office. Attached to this memo is the bid tab, a letter of recommendation from our engineers as well as a site plan and engineer's estimate. This bid was to add three more courts to the northside of the existing pickleball courts at Brunsdale Park. Four contractors bid on this project with the low bid coming from Master Construction in the amount of \$251,500. This includes accepting the two alternates of adding Forta concrete (fiberglass strands on the top layer of the concrete) to the mix to improve durability as well as resurfacing the entire complex. Funds for this project have been budgeted in our 2022 capital budget as well as combining dollars reserved in our capital account for this project. The engineer's estimate was for \$308,310.

We currently have 14 pickleball courts, and with these 3 new ones we will have a total of 17 courts. We also have 4 tennis courts that are painted with pickleball lines. We will be having leagues at the Brunsdale pickleball courts but will only use 4 of the courts on Thursday evenings.

The current pickleball courts are due to be resurfaced, and the usual lifespan is about 10 years, but our climate does not allow for that.

The Committee recommends this item for the Consent agenda.

**Review Bids for 2022 Playground Improvements.**

Dave Bietz, presenter.

The 2022 Playground Improvement bids were received and opened on Thursday, April 14th, 2022, 2:00pm, at the Park District Office. Attached to this memo is the bid tab, a letter of recommendation from our engineers as well as an engineer's estimate. This project is to upgrade the playground equipment at Westgate Park and Willow Park. We had three contractors submit bids and the low bid was received from MY Turn Playsystems.

The amount of their bid was \$252,687. This includes accepting their bid for base bid as well as accepting alternates #1 and #3, which is the demolition of the existing playgrounds. Funds for this project are budgeted annually in our playground replacement budget. The engineer's estimate for this project was \$275,336.80, which included permitting and engineering fees.

The playgrounds at Willow Park will be consolidated into one and move it toward the residential side.

Commissioner Griggs asked if we put in new and improved equipment at the parks when we do the improvements and we do. Zip lines, sway riders, expression swings, and Plinko ball are a few of the new items.

The Committee recommends this item for the Consent agenda.

**Discuss consideration of approving bids for 2022 Concrete and Asphalt Improvements at May 10 Board Meeting.**

Dave Bietz, presenter.

Staff have been working with our engineers on a timeline for the 2022 Concrete and Asphalt Improvements. The current meeting timeline is as follows:

May 5<sup>th</sup>, Bid Opening

May 25<sup>th</sup>, Consideration at Facilities Committee Meeting

June 14<sup>th</sup>, Consideration, and potential approval at June Park Board Meeting

Several contractors have asked our engineers if there is any way to allow more time for this project as they don't feel there is enough time to get these projects completed this fall. Staffing is cited as the reason why the contractors don't feel they can complete this work in the time allotted. One of the options to allow more time for the project could be to open bids on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May as planned and then bring the results of that bid to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for consideration. This step would allow for a savings of one month and allow construction to begin sooner.

Another option being explored is allowing the project to run into the next construction season. Allowing this flexibility could result in more favorable bids at the time of bid opening.

Staff is asking for the ability to have the results of the bid opening to be brought directly before the Commission at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting for consideration. We would then also entertain allowing the project to run into the next construction cycle depending on the amount of work that can be achieved in the 2022 construction season.

Commissioner Griggs asked what would happen if allowed to complete some of the projects into the next construction season and the business goes out of business or does not complete the work. Dave Bietz stated we would be protected through the contract that would be written. Dave Leker asked if we would do a performance bond for concrete projects, and that is not something we would do but we would have the liquidated damages laid out if the deadlines are not met. We only accept bids from bonded and insured contractors. We have until June 2025 to have all the projects done since ½ of the funds are coming from a grant.

We will be applying for the RTP grant as well so we could have a trail from Orchid Glen to Forrest River.

The Committee is in favor of this item and recommends it be brought forward to the full board for consideration and approval.

**Bring to the full Board:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## **Other.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Ave Parking Lot-**

There is now a restaurant with only eight parking spots, and Commissioner Morgan stated they also purchased two homes next door that is also used for parking there. This is really not the responsibility of the Fargo Park District.

Dave Leker is working with Sanford on the groundbreaking at the Fargo Parks Sports Complex and to separate the Outdoor Sanford Sports Complex reveal from the Fargo Park's Sports Complex groundbreaking event.

### **Strategic Plan Discussion-**

Commissioner Griggs asked about feedback and the timeline of the next meeting. Dave Leker stated the key issue matrix will be worked on Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, also looking at the organizational structure again and try to finalize Director comments on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Our information should be back to the consultants Pat O'Toole and Art Thatcher by May 10<sup>th</sup>. They will work from May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup>, to refine and put some action steps together have information back to us by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our Facilities Committee meeting is on May 25<sup>th</sup> so we will not make that. We will have the information out to the Commissioners the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We currently have a Budget meeting setup for Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> so the consultants could be in town and able to meet after the Budget meeting with the Commissioners and Directors from 10:15 am – 1:30 pm to get everyone's perspective and finalize.

With no further questions, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Notes submitted by: Cindy Boettcher, Administrative Specialist