

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF AUGUST 2, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Fargo Park District office at 701 Main Avenue, Fargo, North Dakota and via Microsoft Teams. Present at the meeting in person were Commissioners Joe Deutsch and Dawn Morgan. Present at the meeting via Microsoft Teams were Commissioners Vicki Dawson and Jerry Rostad and Aaron Hill. Also present were: Dave Leker, Broc Lietz, Carolyn Boutain, Brian Arett, Kevin Boe, Dave Bietz and attorney Jeff Gunkelman.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Jerry Rostad seconded a motion to approve the following actions on the consent agenda:

- (a) The minutes from the July 12, 2022 meeting;
- (b) The July 2022 bills;
- (c) Amended Order of the Agenda;
- (d) Updated Valley Senior Services Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy and Fleet Maintenance Plan.
- (e) Request to solicit for bids for Park Division Equipment.

Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Each Director presented on this matter and provided an informational update to the Board on their respective department. No action was taken on this matter.

**Approval of Recommendation from Fargo Park District Foundation on
Grant Match Program Grant Applications**

Brian Arett presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that the Foundation received two applications. The first application was from Fargo Post 2 seeking a \$15,000 grant match on a \$30,000 total project cost to renovate the infield at Jack Williams Stadium. The second application was from Nicholas Dawson seeking a \$1,300 grant match on a \$2,600 total project cost to construct dog park features such as ramps and hurdles to be placed at the south Fargo Dog Park.

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Joe Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the Fargo Park District Foundation Board recommendation to provide grant matching funds in the amount of \$15,000 to Post 2 Legion Baseball as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Jerry Rostad seconded a motion to approve the Fargo Park District Foundation Board recommendation to provide grant matching funds in the amount of \$1,300.00 to Nicholas Dawson as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Vicki Dawson abstaining from the vote.

Approval of Scope of the Island Park Pool Project

Dave Leker and Tony Wolf of Zerr Berg presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that staff is looking for approval of the schematic design for the scope of the project. It was noted that the Park District had a stakeholders meeting and an open house to the public to obtain one last round of input. IT was noted that the staff is recommending the following features: 50M competition pool with diving well; lazy river; zero entry; 1 fly tyme slide; 1 tube side. It was noted that there were several discussions regarding slide height and making sure that the pool features fit in with the general nature of Island Park.

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Jerry Rostad seconded a motion to approve the scope of the Island Park Pool Project as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Initial Resolution Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation Park Facilities Bonds, Series 2023A

Dave Leker and Broc T. Lietz presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that the proposed new general obligation bonds would go toward Phase 2 of the Fargo Sports Complex. It was noted that the first step in the process is to set the maximum amount of debt the Fargo Park District can take on regarding Phase 2 and that there is a 60 day objection period. It was noted that at the end of the objection period the Commissioners could lower the amount of debt the Park District would take on through the general obligation bonds. It was noted that if the Park District took on the full \$34,000,000 in general obligation bonds while also increasing the general fund by one mil, the Sports Complex could add 2 sheets of ice, 4 basketball courts, birthday party rooms, 2 community rooms and a playground. It was noted that any lesser amounts would result in removing some of those features.

Commissioner Hill noted that the Park District should do as much as it can now to maximize the Sports Complex while the project is in production and that staff and the Commissioners can use the next 60 days to narrow in on the scope of the project. Commission Rostad noted that the Sports Complex will be a big draw to the city of Fargo and the need and demand for the additional features remain present. Commissioner Deutsch noted that the Sports Complex would serve more than just team sports if it can add the walking courts, pickleball courts, party rooms. Commissioner Morgan noted that she has concerns with other projects being delayed including Island Park, Lindenwood, Yunker Farm and general maintenance. Commissioner Morgan noted that she has concerns with this much Park District resources going into one project. Commissioner Dawson noted that she does favor increasing the general fund by one mil in addition to taking on the general obligation bonds for \$34,000,000, and noted that the Park District budgets for capital project improvements as part of the annual budget process.

Prior to the motions to approve and the vote on the matter, Commissioner Hill left the meeting at 6:25pm.

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Joe Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the Initial Resolution for the Issuance of General Obligation Park Facility Bonds, Series 2023A. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Hill leaving the meeting prior to the vote.

Prior to the following agenda item Commissioner Jerry Rostad left the meeting at 7:00pm.

Approval of Preliminary 2023 Budget

Dave Leker and Broc T. Lietz presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that the 2023 proposed budget is balanced at a mill levy rate of 38.41. It was noted that this represents an increase of 4.55 mills from the previous year, with all 4.55 mills being associated with Phase 2 of the Fargo Sports Complex. It was noted that 3.55 mills are associated with the general obligation bonds associated with Phase 2 and that 1 mill would be an increase in the general fund to also be applied to Phase 2 of the Fargo Sports Complex. It was noted that the preliminary budget sets the maximum a subdivision is allowed to levy in the following year but that the mill levy can be decreased by the final submitted budget, due October 10, 2022. It was noted that taking out the \$34,000,000 in general obligation bonds and increasing the general fund mill by 1 mill would maximize the spending and debt capacity of the Park District going forward.

Commissioners Morgan, Dawson and Deutsch discussed the increase in the general fund mills and how it is associated with Phase 2 of the Fargo Sports Complex. Commissioner Dawson noted that she does not approve increasing the general fund by one mill and that staff and the commissioners need to find a path home to construct as many Phase 2 features as possible without increasing that general mill. Commissioner Deutsch noted that there as an initial scope of project for the Sports Complex and that the Park District should put those features into the Sports Complex.

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Dawn Morgan seconded a motion to approve the preliminary 2023 budget as originally presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed 2-1 Commissioners Deutsch and Morgan voting in favor of the motion, Commissioner Dawson voting against the motion, and Commissioners Hill and Rostad having left the meeting prior to the vote.

At the conclusion of the above agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and upon unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Dave Leker, Clerk