

Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2025; 8:30 am
Fargo Parks Sports Center
Marsh McClennen Conference room

2024 Audit Engagement Letter, Eide Bailly:

Broc Lietz, presented. Reviewed the process and cost of the audit using Eide Bailly. This letter is submitted every year to get the audit process started. Requested to use Eide Bailly again this year. Broc stated they will be here the last week in February/first week of March. Commissioner Hill asked how long has Eide Bailly been doing our audit, Commissioner Deutsch stated it has been more than 20 years. Commissioner Hill asked if there has been thought about changing auditors. Melissa Harvey, Gaming Auditor for the Foundation stated that Eide Bailly is one of two auditing firms that are familiar with gaming at all.

The committee recommends moving to the full board and placing it on the Consent Agenda for consideration and approval.

Permission to apply for a Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Recreation Grant:

Tony Schmitt, presented. Tony asked for permission to apply for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Recreation Grant. The maximum grant award is \$75,000. Tony stated we would be using these funds for the Southwest Regional Pond Recreation area enhancement. This would include the gravel trails, native plantings and installation of park benches. There is about 80 acres to seed at a cost of about \$90,000. Tony said this is a matching grant, eligible to receive up to 25% of the non-federal share of the cost of the project.

Dave stated our goal is to combine multiple grants to get the project completed and scale back the project. We still have the opportunity to work with the City of Fargo, they city stated the next time Tony goes in front of the OHF they would come along to strengthen the partnership. In addition to that, we still have the opportunity to work with developers as they start to develop the area. Dave also said we have been talking with the City of Fargo regarding that this trail network is a benefit to not just recreation and parks but to the city as a whole.

The committee recommends moving this to the full board and placing it on the Consent Agenda for consideration and approval.

Charitable Gaming highlights:

Craig Bjur, presented. Craig updated the staff and commissioners regarding the charitable gaming. This will be another funding source for the foundation. Craig stated they submitted the application in December of 2023, and it will be finished soon. Craig introduced Chrissy Nelson who will be the gaming manager and Melissa Harvey, and she will be the gaming auditor.

Craig stated that Chrissy and Melissa have been working on the Internal Control Manual and Customer Policy and Procedure Gaming Rule Manuals. The first location will be CJ's Tavern at Rose Creek, April 1st, 2025, start date. Craig said there are restrictions to who can participate in the gaming. The Foundation Board and households are not allowed to participate, the executive leadership team, financial team and the Park Board commissioners. are not allowed to participate. Also please, do not wear Park District clothing when gaming.

Melissa Harvey went through the process of how things will work through out the process of the gaming and keeping track of daily reporting and giving updates quarterly to the board.

There can be up to 5 sites within the city of Fargo. The Foundation is allowed to keep up to 60% of the proceeds from gaming towards operational costs. Craig said that he and Susan have been working on where those dollars will go.

Other:

1. Dave discussed Ryan Such and the Jack Williams Stadium. After the first initial meeting there were several conversations with Ryan. Ryan gave us a lot of information, project estimate of what he wanted to see fixed. It was just over \$500,000. Dave said the Park District would be willing to fund half of the project. Through further conversations with Ryan and some of the voting members of their board, they didn't feel they could come up with \$250,000 to meet the other half. Conversations are still ongoing. Dave said he, Susan and Jayne have met, and it is our property, we do have an agreement with Post 2 that states they are responsible for the bleachers. Dave stated the wall is the major part of this project, we are proposing to move this ahead that the Park District would still stay within the \$250,000 and fix the wall and the existing concrete that is associated with that and go back to Post 2 and let them know this is what the Park District will do, and ask them to cover the cost of the new seating and or bleachers for their obligation. Dave will be reaching out to Ryan and said hopefully he is agreeable. We would enter into an MOU to make sure everybody is aware who is responsible for what part of the project. More information to come.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant