

Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 19, 2025; 8:30 am
Fargo Parks Sports Center
Alex Stern Boardroom

Review proposed Children's Museum at Yunker Farm:

Stephanie Kohl presented. Stephanie discussed and presented her PowerPoint and gave us her thoughts on bringing back a Children's Museum at Yunker Farm. Stephanie presented a vision for reviving the Children's Museum at Yunker Farm, emphasizing community support and engagement, with over 70% of survey support on a survey she conducted.

The Board members stated that we are not there yet as a Park District to move forward with a children's museum or any other tenant at Yunkers Farm. The board members suggested to Stephanie to have the people that are supporting her to add their comments and suggestions to the Park System Master Plan social pinpoint. Susan stated we are offering several programs at the farmhouse this year and have plans to increase our park district offerings in 2026. The Park System Master Plan will provide direction for us.

Review Selkirk Developers Agreement:

Dave Bietz, presented. Dave discussed collaborating with Selkirk developers. There has been discussion regarding what would the park design look like. Developers would like to include recreation trail, green space, picnic shelter, park benches and playground, similar in concept as Urban Plains 6.75 acres has been designated for the park area.

The name of the park is being proposed as Clay Hector Park. Commissioner Rostad ask about the maintenance, mowing and snow removal, Tony Schmitt stated that would be taken care of by the parks department.

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

Review Memo of Understanding with Fargo Post 2 Baseball Club to repair the backstop wall at Jack Williams Stadium:

Dave Bietz, presented. Dave discussed how Ryan Such requested assistance to fix the backstop wall, seating and concrete walkways at Jack Williams Stadium. Staff started working on options and came up with each entity's responsibilities. The Park District will handle design, bidding and backstop wall, modifications for new seating and repairing any field damage caused by construction, includes drainage, irrigation, turf, agrilime and walkways.

Dave stated Post 2 will take care of removing the seating behind the backstop wall and purchasing and installing the new stadium seats. The goal is to get this project done this fall 2025. If approval is given to move ahead, we will bid this project, and the results would be brought back to the board for consideration. If at that time approval is given, we would ask for a budget adjustment to pay for the project.

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

Review Charitable Gaming Usage:

Craig Bjur, presented. Craig explained and discussed when CJ's would start the charitable gaming, which is April 1, 2025. The Foundation plans to add additional locations later. Craig also discussed where the proceeds from gaming in 2025 will used within the Park District. Consideration will be scholarships, inclusive playgrounds, Mircle Field, park accessibility improvements and Verta Cat, this is a handicap accessible golf cart, these projects and priorities can be adjusted each year.

There was a suggestion to have an annual review to determine where we would want the gaming sites. All of the review of the gaming operation itself is part of the Foundation board. Susan stated that Commissioner Hill sits on the Foundation Board and could bring all the data and information back through the Park Board for updates, feedback and input.

Review preliminary year-end financials:

Luke Evenson, presented. Luke reviewed the two financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2024, the income statement showing each department's revenue and expenses. He also reviewed the board summary. The audit is being done at the end of March so there still might be some changes that will be made before it is finalized.

Review Budget Timeline:

Broc Lietz, presented. Broc reviewed the budgeting process for 2025. Broc stated there was a presentation for the leadership team, included dates for planning discussions, draft presentation, deadlines, and other important dates. Broc said they will be sending out budget worksheets by the 1st of April. There will be an April presentation for the Board.

Review Mickelson Field #4 Sports Field Lighting:

Tony Schmitt, presented. Tony reviewed the information for the Mickelson Field lighting project. Tony stated they did a virtual bid opening, and it worked very well, there were 3 bids. Recommending awarding the bid to Sun Electric as they were low bid and met all of our specifications. This will be done in late fall, 2025.

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

Review Anderson Softball Complex Dugout Replacement Bids:

Tony Schmitt, presented. Tony reviewed the information for the Anderson Softball Complex dugout replacement. There were 3 vendors bidding for this project. Recommending awarding the bid to American Gate Security Company as they were low bid and met all of our specifications.

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

Review Tharaldson Little League Metal Shade Shelter Replacement Bids:

Tony Schmitt, presented. Tony reviewed the information for the Tharaldson Little League Metal Shade shelter replacement. There were 3 vendors bidding for this project. Recommending awarding the bid to Park and Play USA as they were low bid and met all of our specifications.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant