



City of Sidney, MT  
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting 1-24-24  
January 24, 2024 5:30 PM  
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

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The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 713 080 5898 Passcode: 4332809

Call: 1-346-248-7799

**Alderman Present:** DiFonzo, Stevenson, Christensen

**Other's Present:** Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz (via telephone), Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer, Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), Scotty Sturgis, Jackie Laqua, Peter Erickson, James Falcon (Sidney Herald- via telephone)

**1. New Business**

**a. Moose Park- use as back-up field for college games**

Mr. Sturgis is asking for Moose Park to be used as a backup field for Williston State College and other close colleges in the case of emergency due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Sturgis is also interested in possibly scheduling double header night ("Under the Lights") with the local legion game first followed by Williston State College game to expand community support. He will work with Chris Lee (athletics director) on high school schedule.

Alderman DiFonzo stated an agreement should be in place for any scheduled baseball park use, especially if there will be costs incurred for night games that need the lights. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that city hall can be the contact for scheduling and managing the agreements and that the park use agreement form is available and will be sufficient. Alderman DiFonzo asked Mr. Sturgis when the college season is and Mr. Sturgis stated that the season is February to early May. Alderman DiFonzo noted that the local legion team season does not start until May and should not interfere. Mr. Sturgis also stated that most of the college games are played during mid-day, whereas local legion games are typically played later in the day. Alderman DiFonzo stated this should not cause any issues as a back-up field and noted that Moose Park use and schedule priority will remain with the local legion team.

Motion was made to recommend allowing Williston State College and other colleges baseball to use Moose Park as a back-up field and to allow other scheduled college games with a park use agreement.

Motion made by Stevenson, Seconded by Christensen.  
Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Stevenson

**b. Svarre Pool- swim team dock**

Mr. Mayer detailed questions asked from the last Park and Recreation Committee meeting on August 28, 2023. Sidney Swim Team is proposing a permanent dock or an aluminum temporary dock/bulkhead. Sidney swim team has permission to use their temporary removeable dock until proposed changes are decided and project completed. Mr. Mayer addressed the question of the pool structure and existing floor slab being able to support the load of the bulkhead. He stated that his report gave conservative calculations and feels that the pool is structurally adequate. Mr. Mayer stated that geotechnical soil investigation was not done but the last geotechnical soil investigation was completed in January 1991 by Braun Engineering was used in their calculations. Mr. Mayer would like to assist the city in weighing the options: permanent bulkhead, temporary bulkhead, or continuing with the current temporary bulkhead, as well as exploring the best building material and mounting procedure.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the representatives of the swim team has any questions or comments. Mrs. Laqua stated she would like to make progress and know where to go from here. Mr. Erickson stated that swim team wants to satisfy the needs of the city and ensure the integrity of the pool while not putting a lot of fundraised money into the building of a new temporary dock should the pool be redone in the near future and it not be used.

Mayor Norby stated he doesn't want to disrupt the pool by drilling into the bottom decking to anchor the bulkhead and causing unforeseen cracks or leaks. Mr. Mayer stated that a crack or leak would be unexpected but possible, given the age of the pool. Mr. Mayer discussed if a leak were to happen, the repair could be crack sealing or lining. The liner could cost an estimated \$200,000. A pool re-build would cost more than a million dollars. Mayor Norby stated we are lucky that we have had this pool for 30 years and very few issues other than scheduled maintenance and repairs.

Alderwoman Christensen questioned if constructing the new bulkhead/dock could cause new issues. Alderman Stevenson asked if designing a retro-fitting dock is an option. Mr. Mayer stated there are options that can be researched. Alderman DiFonzo questioned if additional work would need to be done to counter balance the weight of bulkhead. Concrete buckets/weights were discussed as an option, depending on the material used to build and weight to counter and anchoring.

PWD Hintz stated he has concerns with the cleaning of the permanent bulk head with it being a confined space. Mr. Mayer stated the details of the permanent dock would be established during the final design that would address that issue.

Alderman DiFonzo posed the question on how much weight from people on the structure during open swim and meets and Mr. Erickson stated that age 7 and younger will be the only age diving from the dock during meets, all older ages will dive from the end of the pool. Clerk/Treasurer

Chamberlin stated people would be prohibited from being on a permanent dock during open swim.

Alderman DiFonzo request PWD Hintz to review and write recommendation before any any further action is take. PWD Hintz agreed and will have a recommendation by the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled February 12th @ 5:30.

Adjourned at 6:10pm.