



City of Sidney, MT  
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting  
August 28, 2023 5:15 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: Chair DiFonzo, Christensen, Godfrey

Other's Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Pool Manager Garsjo, Greg Hitchcock (Sidney Herald), Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), Pete Erickson, Don Garsjo, and Wyatt Chamberlin

## 1. New Business

### a. Svarre Pool Dock

Alderman DiFonzo stated the committee is here to discuss the proposal of Swim Team for a permanent dock or an aluminum temporary dock/bulkhead. Mr. Mayer provided the Park and Recreation Committee with a synopsis of the costs and city obligations for either the temporary or permanent dock with their preliminary designs. He stated the goal of the Swim Team, if the permanent dock is decided to be done by the City, is to have it completed before the season starts next year. Mr. Mayer stated the temporary is not the greatest solution with how it will be mounted to the deck, installation and removal, and storage when not being used. He stated the permanent dock does have the opportunity for the City to raise the floor on the south side of the pool at the same time.

PWD Hintz asked the estimated cost of blasting and painting of the pool and Mr. Mayer stated they did not get an accurate estimate for that for the entire pool. Mr. Mayer stated by doing the raising at the same time as the permanent dock, it would be more cost effective and better for design to do at the same time. He stated if the entire project is done, it will be beneficial to swim team, lap swimmers and younger child use of the pool for recreation and swimming lessons.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked about the pool life span and doing this much money into it, if there are reservations on this. Mr. Mayer stated with the current state of the pool, they do not see any issue with the pool being around for another 20 years, except for maintenance and equipment. PWD Hintz stated the bath house has a lot of life left, the filter, pumps and machinery in general are in good shape with need to be replaced because of general use. He stated he feels

the biggest obstacle he foresees is if it starts to leak or crack, which won't be known until it happens. He stated the pool was opened in 1993, but there are liners and such to assist in the lifespan.

PWD Hintz stated he is looking at this dock weight, with the floor of the pool being 6 inches with steel, and if the weight will affect the existing floor of the pool. He stated his concern is that the weight could cause to start bust the floor pool causing major improvements. He stated he is leaning more toward the temporary if it is engineered correctly to not cause issues with the pool deck.

Alderman DiFonzo stated one of his concerns is what is under the current floor and if it is strong enough to not crack or have issues with this additional weight on top of it. PWD Hintz stated they could look into cutting the current floor out to make it stronger, but that will increase the cost. Mr. Mayer stated if the support is a concern, Interstate Engineering will have structural engineers look at it and what is under the pool. He stated they will address that concern.

Alderman Difonzo stated the pool was originally designed at the 50-meter for the swim team, now because of regulation changes, they want to reduce it, which could negatively affect lap swimmers who enjoy swimming the full 50-meters. He stated it is a community pool and the community at large needs to be kept in mind for this decision on permanent versus temporary.

Alderman DiFonzo asked about the damaged gutters and if it is installation or use of the current temporary dock and PWD Hintz stated he is not sure how/when it happens. Mr. Garsjo stated he feels the pool life span has many years to come because it is very good shape. He stated he feels it would be more useful for the public with the two pool areas and the raising of the floor. He stated they could now swim laps in two areas. He further stated he has participated in the installation and removal of the current dock and he stated they are very careful and the crack in question, he feels, was just part of the normal wear and tear of the pool and not caused directly by the dock. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the proposed temporary dock will be easier to install and take out and Mr. Erickson stated because it will be in pieces, they will not need the use of the crane, it will be put together in place.

Mayor Norby asked what we would do if the pool started to crack and Mr. Mayer stated he can get that information together for the committee. Mayor Norby asked if it cause catastrophic damage to have to replace the pool completely and Mr. Mayer stated they would not recommend that if it was possible.

Alderwoman Christensen asked what length the pools are in surrounding or the new pool in Glasgow and Mr. Garsjo stated usually 50-meter with sometimes 25-meter legs. He stated he is wondering why they would spend over \$100,000 for a temporary dock that is only in the pool a couple of times the year. Alderman DiFonzo stated why would we do a permanent dock for the same amount of time. Mayor Norby stated the reason why the temporary dock is being requested to be replaced is because it was not engineered and for insurance purposes it needs to have an engineer sign off on it.

Alderwoman Christensen asked how many people lap swim and Pool Manager Garsjo stated less than half a dozen and they do not swim the full 50-meter usually. She stated the last couple of weeks some of them have.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked Pool Manager Garsjo her opinion on the permanent dock for safety during open swim, lifeguards etc. and what she feels the best use of the pool would be as a 50-meter or 25-meter pool. Pool Manager Garsjo stated with a permanent dock they would have to have an additional chair, one lifeguard on either side of the wall and they will have to purchase 2 new blankets with the permanent dock. She stated swimmers will not be allowed to play on the dock and they have looked at other safety issues for the dock with free swimmers in the pool and flow of the water from one side to the other and they are addressed.

Mr. Mayer stated they are hopeful that if the permanent dock is decided on it will be ready for the swimming pool usual opening. He stated if the permanent dock is chosen, they are recommending the Swim Team the head of the construction and contractor, paying them directly and saving on time and cost. After it is completed, it will be donated back to the pool. Mr. Garsjo stated it might be better to close the pool a month early and do the construction in the fall when weather is more known in the fall versus never knowing when spring is going to officially start and lose the beginning of the season.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated as for the budget, if the Svarre Foundation Grant is received, the city could be looking at only an additional cost of \$20,000 above the \$75,000 saved this year for blasting and painting of the pool. She stated she would recommend adding \$70,000 to that transfer should this project go through, if it does not that money will be available for other improvements and maintenance of the pool.

Mr. Erickson stated the Swim Team has paid for the design and do use the pool a lot, with paying for passes and are a part of the pool community. Alderman DiFonzo stated he agrees swim team is important to the pool and community, but the Council needs to be able to respond to the community questions on making permanent changes or changes that cause additional issues to the pool.

Mr. Mayer stated if the Swim Team can use their temporary dock the next season, the push to make this done before the season next year. Alderman DiFonzo stated he doesn't see why they couldn't have another year with the temporary to make sure the right decisions are made.

Motion was made to recommend allowing the swim team to use their temporary dock for the 2024 season, increase the transfer into the pool CIP to \$145,000 for FY23-24 and to wait to decide on permanent versus temporary dock until more information on the impact on the pool floor.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by Godfrey.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Godfrey, Christensen

Adjourned at 6:11 PM