

## **INVEST IN WILLMAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

The Invest in Willmar Board met at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 in Conference Room No. 1 at the Willmar City Office Building.

Members present were: Matt Dawson, Mary Sawatzky, Tony Amon, Shawn Mueske, Denis Anderson and Bob Poe. Absent were Jon Konold and Audrey Nelsen.

Also present were: Mayor Calvin, City Administrator Holland, Finance Director Okins, Park and Recreation Director Baumgarn, and Administrative Assistant Sommers.

The two members appointed by the City Council to the Invest in Willmar Board were acknowledged. Bob Poe is the business representative and Denis Anderson the Member-at-Large. Both are voting members.

Mayor Calvin pointed out that funding for bonding costs does not need to be included in the \$30 million bonding bill. Details of the amounts of each project is not recommended to be included in the legislation as it can restrict the project. The intent is to list the six project areas, the term of 13 years and the amount of \$30 million plus bonding costs.

The targeted members for each project to serve on subcommittees were discussed and consensus was as follows:

- Athletic Fields – Jon Konold
- Swansson Field – Mary Sawatzky
- Events Center – Matt Dawson and possibly Beth Fischer
- Robbins Island – Rachel Skretvedt
- Storm Water – Kathy Schwantes and possible staff members or County Public Works Director Mel Odens or Loren Engleby County Drainage Manager
- Community Center – Julie Asmus and staff member Britta Diem

Members felt the committees should start meeting as soon as possible and decided that only one member of the City Council may serve on a subcommittee.

The application for placement on a subcommittee was reviewed. City Administrator Holland remarked on the process for collecting comments from the public and will coordinate with the IT Department to formulate tabulations for review. It was mentioned the application should be distributed to the Chamber of Commerce and service clubs if possible. When a completed application is received, it will be distributed to the board members via email for review. It was the consensus of the board that you do not have to be a resident of the City to be a member of a subcommittee.

Chair Dawson reviewed a timeline for the board. Two priorities for February are to start meeting with the subcommittees and get a uniform message to the legislature. Discussion was held pertaining to the opening statement to be read to the legislature and the correct bonding language.

It was stated that subcommittee chairs should work on a document including specifications and explanations as to why their project is of regional significance noting that people are not only investing in Willmar, but the regional area.

Discussion reverted back to the bill going before the legislature noting the need to explain why this local option sales tax is so important, as well as why it is different and better. The message has to be consistent from all and might include Willmar's history of the last two local option sales tax events. Staff was asked to bring Representative Baker's opening comments and narrative to the next meeting for review.

The meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant