

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

The Invest in Willmar Board met at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 in Conference Room No. 1 at the Willmar City Office Building

Members present were: Tony Amon, Denis Anderson, Audrey Nelsen, Bob Poe and Mary Sawatzky.

Also present were: Mayor Marv Calvin, City Administrator Ike Holland, Finance Director Steve Okins, Park & Recreation Director Rob Baumgarn, Park & Recreation Secretary Becky Sorenson and Shelby Lindrud of the "West Central Tribune."

The meeting was called to order by Tony Amon in the absence of Matt Dawson. A motion was made by Denis Anderson to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mary Sawatzky seconded and the motion carried.

The Bond Council recommended removing the "sales and use tax authorization" from the Bill. Mayor Calvin does not feel it should be removed. Everyone looked over the talking points and discussed. Mary Sawatzky asked if Beth Fischer had been asked for her input.

Mayor Calvin stated he had learned at the last League of Minnesota Cities meeting that three cities had their proposed Local Option Sales Tax turned down.

The following individuals will be serving on the Swansson Field subcommittee: Mary Sawatzky, Steve Tammen, Dave Baumgart, Rick Maursetter, John Sawatzky.

The Athletic Fields subcommittee members are: Jon Konold, Jeff Stauffenecker, Randy Curtis, Shannon Cayler, Tony Amon, Ryan Blahosky and Nathan Streed.

Events Center subcommittee members are: Gretchen Otness, Justin Bos, Mike Fagerlie and Brian Kath.

The remaining subcommittees still need more members. Robbins Island has Steve Kneprath; Stormwater has Anita Flowe and the Community Center has Jeff Jagush.

Rob Baumgarn will contact Mike Negen to find out which committee he would like to serve on – Robbins Island or Events Center. Audrey Nelsen will call Beth Fischer to see if she may be interested in serving on a committee. Some recruiting is needed for members to serve on the Robbins Island and Community Center committees. Mayor Calvin stated that he feels staff should be the driving force behind the Stormwater committee which will be chaired by Sean Christensen.

A telephone conference with Representative Dave Baker was conducted. He stated that February 25 is the hearing for all Local Option Sales Tax proposals. Each City will have ten minutes for their presentation. Mayor Calvin asked how many could be in attendance. Mr. Baker responded that two or three could present with any additional attendees in the audience. There will be 16 to 22

communities presenting their Local Option Sales Tax to the Committee. Dave Baker stated that typically the out of town, rural communities were scheduled to present first.

It would be a good idea to have something to hand out to Committee members. Mary Sawatzky mentioned using the leftover double-sided flyers that had been created for the vote which listed the projects that would be included if the question passed. Dave Baker stated that the flyers should be available so they can be placed in the legislative packets. A PowerPoint presentation was decided against.

Audrey Nelsen asked if there was anything we needed to do prior to the hearing. Duluth and Rochester's local option sales tax was turned down last year. Ms. Nelsen wondered what the problems were so we could avoid making the same mistake. Dave Baker said he was unaware of this and he would check into the reasons and get back to Ike Holland and Mayor Calvin.

After some discussion, the following people will attend the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting: Matt Dawson, Mayor Calvin, Mary Sawatzky, Audrey Nelsen, Steve Okins and Rob Baumgarn.

The next item on the agenda was the selection of a vice chair. Audrey Nelsen nominated Mary Sawatzky, Tony Amon seconded, and everyone approved.

The next meeting will be February 27.

Bob Poe questioned the process of requesting funds. The process would be thru the Steering Committee first, then the Park & Recreation Board, City Council and Staff. Basically, the subcommittee would get an idea from construction companies as to the cost and then present their request in the form of "We are looking at needing \$500,000 for fencing, does that work in with the budget?"

Bob Poe's next question was in priorities – who decides who gets money? The answer is that this committee makes the decision.

It was stated that an email system needs to be set up so all members get the information. Ike said he would see that this is done.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Becky Sorensen  
Park & Recreation Secretary