

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

Approved: 10-14-20

The Invest in Willmar Board met at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 9, 2020 via GoTo teleconference.

Members present were: Matt Dawson, Mary Sawatzky, Tony Amon, Denis Anderson, Bob Poe, Mayor Marv Calvin, City Administrator Brian Gramentz and Andrey Nelsen joined at 4:35 p.m.

Also present were: Council Member Julie Asmus, Recreation Director Rob Baumgarn, Rachel Skretvedt – Robbins Island Chair, Gretchen Otness - Recreation Center Chair, Janell Sommers, Administrative Assistant and Shelby Lindrud, Journalist.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Dawson. Upon review of the agenda, a motion was made by Denis Anderson, seconded by Tony Amon and passed to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Mary Sawatzky, seconded by Tony Amon and passed to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting.

Mayor Calvin updated the board on the four motions passed by the City Council at their September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to include bonding up to \$5 million allowing their expenditure to be directed by staff up to \$3 million for Robbins Island and up to \$2 million for Swansson Fields. The re-engagement of Widseth and LSE Architects and Marcus Construction was approved as well for the Event Center and Recreation Fields. The financial report appears to be very favorable with the revenues coming in.

City Administrator Gramentz stated he contacted the architects making them aware of the Council action and encouraged the projects be arranged by creating a base project and include any alternates which allows flexibility for the City Council, if and when finances improve. Discussion was held relating to the 10 percent contingencies for the projects.

Gretchen Otness, Event Center Chair, was present to answer questions of the board on the Master Plan drawings/schematic of the Civic Center area. As the architects are now re-engaged they will move more into the design and development stage of the projects and consider operational costs. City Administrator Gramentz made note that eventually the City Council will approve the Master Plan to allow staff to initiate conversations with the school district to identify the land to be acquired for the project and explained the process that needs to take place.

Mary Sawatzky gave a brief update on the Swansson Fields project with bids to be opened on September 16<sup>th</sup> which will enable the subcommittee to move forward on their projects.

Rachel Skretvedt updated the board on the status of the Robbins Island project. The park is now closed with water main improvements proposed to start this week. With the bids coming in low they are hopeful to move ahead with plans and design for shelters to be brought through the committee process and to council. The first phase of the project appears to be close to \$1.5 million when you include soft costs and the architects. A ball park figure for two shelters would be \$600,000 and consideration being given to updating Guri Shelter. Audrey Nelsen questioned enhancements

for walkways and trails. Mayor Calvin brought forward the comment that now would be the time to do that with the contractor at the site and also consideration for an Amphitheater that was in the Master Plan.

Council Member Asmus noted the Community Center project remains on hold. There was no update for Storm Water.

Tony Amon updated Recreation Fields noting they have seen the Master Plan and they are excited to move forward with design and costs now that the Council has re-engaged the architect.

Gretchen Otness, Event Center Chair, relayed no updates at this time.

Chair Dawson asked City Administrator to recap the funding. Mr. Gramentz stated if you remove Storm Water and Community Center the numbers are:

Robbins Island for \$3 million  
Swansson Fields for \$2 million  
Recreation Fields for \$6 million  
Event Center for \$10 million

He indicated those figures look doable based on the current financial projections, but he is asking the architects and subcommittees to set base projects and then alternates that can be added if additional funding becomes available. He foresees the Event Center being funded with more than the board's \$2 million recommendation.

Next meeting date was announced as October 14th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant