

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

November 8, 2017

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, in the Citizens' Meeting Room, Centennial Hall, 124 10th Street, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Parks and Recreation Commission members in attendance were Chair Alan Koermer, Vice-Chair Doug Tumminello, Holly Weik, Craig Keith, Sarah Floyd and Cady Watson.

Absent: Alfone

Staff members present were Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager Craig Robinson and Events Manager Emily Hines.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

Approval of Minutes: October 11, October 25

Commissioner Tumminello moved to approve the October 11, 2017 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with abstentions.

Commissioner Tumminello moved to approve the October 25, 2017 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Keith seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with abstentions.

Budget Review

Craig Robinson:

In the past we've had the budget endorsed by the Commission before it moved to Council; this year we're a bit late in the process. We have been directed to follow the 0-base budget format, meaning start at 0 and work your way up; figure out what it takes line by line to do the jobs you're doing today. That being said, we have a lot of contracts each year; we have a lot of existing agreements in place with Triple Crown, Winter Sports Club, so we kind of know what that line item is. When we have requests for more, or if we get tasked with more from City Council, that's when you see the impacts to the budgets and the bigger changes.

We did put more into our budget this year because we are tasked to do more each year. We like to raise our bar, and we also have a vision for the

future and are trying to stay ahead of that. As with all the other departments, we had to then go back and cut those items. It happens just about every year. This year an important note is the dollar amount that we had to cut.

From the personnel side of the budget, Parks, Open Space and Trails asked for a supervisor to manage projects – all of our CIP projects – kind of take that off of the supervisor's role which are supposed to be overseeing the crews in the fields and working on infrastructure. That was not supported. Planning, Police, Fire, IT and Transit all had personnel requests that were not met. With some other personnel cuts within the budget line items, there was a reduction from what was asked this year by \$705,000.

On the operating side, the Land Management division and Recreation and Enterprise, we had some cuts, as did the entire city. It looks like 30-\$40,000 from our department. But overall, operationally from the city, we had \$1,121,000 and change cut from the requests in 2018 for a total of \$1.8 million. So as you can see, there's desire from the departments to add more resources, whether it's personnel or operating dollars, the challenge is that the revenues aren't there. You're going to hear more about that over time from the Finance department and from City Council. 2017 was predicted to be the year the lines crossed where the operations of city government is outpacing our revenues. That goes back to that discussion of alternate funding sources that this group has facilitated.

We do have a balanced budget that's been moved forward to Council. We've had the first reading approved; the second reading is traditionally approved after the new Council is seated, so on the 14th next week the second reading for the budget is going to be discussed and hopefully approved as is. Typically there's not many changes; if anything, they're minor.

Kyrill Kretschmar, Recreation and Enterprise Manager:

Ice Arena:

Goals: Further save on utilities: Maintain ideal ice thickness of 1.25" saved \$40,000 since 2015.

Increase temperature swings.

Current spending is less than \$100,000 for utilities; used to be \$145,000.

Replaced the bumper car fleet; 15 new bumper cars from China; running well and making money.

Learn To Skate Initiative modeled after Kerry Shay's hockey initiative: first session is free, thereafter you pay; equipment is free. Very good return rates; much better than in the past.

Massively reduced staff to the point where we felt this is as far as we can go.

Next Year: Hire another person to help manage the ice rink in peak times.

Financials: \$138,000 transfer from the general fund. This is what the ice rink has to have in city subsidy so we break even.

City overhead: \$127,000

That's what the city charges us in overhead.

\$28,000 loan payment that we have to pay until two years from now.

The ice rink more or less breaks even. That's our goal.

Commissioner Weik:

Can you remind me again what the thought process is on how a second sheet of ice would do better than break even?

Kretzschmar: When Brent Pearson presented to City Council he had a very good analogy: What we're doing with the second sheet of ice – we have the infrastructure in place; staffing is in place; chill system; now we're just adding a hotel room. That's all it is. That adds a lot of leverage.

Weik: I noticed on the expenditures that every year we've had an unplanned maintenance. Since that's happened for the last two years, should we plan for that to happen again and budget for that accordingly? It looks like it's about \$20,000 on average every year.

Kretzschmar: I would have to look at what it went towards. But then again, that's facilities, and it happened. We can't plan for everything.

Robinson: We have over \$2 million in deferred maintenance at our facilities. If it's planned, that means it's budgeted and approved. But then you've got an emergency budget to deal with items that we should be addressing but we're not.

Weik: So there is an emergency reserve budgeted somewhere else that doesn't show up in this.

Robinson: Essentially that's unplanned maintenance for each division.

Weik: I'm showing that that was actual, not in the budget.

Robinson: Okay.

Kretzschmar: Next year is a critical year for the chill system. It's 20 years old. We want to look at how much more lifespan we have, so we're going to run a very extensive test to see how well the internal plumbing holds up; how much it has corroded over time. That will tell us how long we have until a major renovation has to take place.

Weik: Does that show up in the operations expenditures?

Kretzschmar: It's in R&M Buildings and Grounds; it's part of that \$58,000 you see there.

Weik: So if every year we end up doing \$20,000 of unplanned maintenance, somewhere in the Parks and Rec budget there must be...

Tumminello: They don't do that. We don't budget for maintenance that way in the city. That's part of the problem. That's part of why we have millions of dollars in unfunded deferred maintenance because there's not a line item throughout the city budget which accounts for that.

Weik: And then the unplanned maintenance ends up taking precedence over the planned maintenance as an emergency, so that doesn't happen and everything gets deferred.

Tumminello: Exactly. And it ends up being more expensive than it ought.

Keith: Do we have an idea of how long that chilling system – if it's 20 years old.

Kretzschmar: I think it's designed for 25 years, but you want to know when you want to replace things.

Keith: Especially if you're adding another sheet of ice to a system that's already 20 years old. Did we look into that before we did the second sheet of ice?

Kretzschmar: We're doing that next summer. The replacement of the entire chiller system is in the city CIP. It's a placeholder for 2019 as a worst-case item. We're hoping we can push it further out.

Overall, there hasn't been any major changes in the division from last year to next year. I do want to mention a few things that have changed and will change.

Youth Sports:

We collaborated with the Yampa Valley Youth Football organization. They wanted to take over football from the city, and we said yes, if it's going to be a better-quality program. So we transferred that over this year; I think it went really well. We have a one-year contract so we're going to re-evaluate next year.

Adult Sports:

This year we added an adult rec football league just to see how it went. It was well received. It didn't cost the city any money. Everything else stayed the same.

Summer Camps:

No major changes. Every year we look what kids like. We evaluate each summer camp to see what kids liked and what they participated in, and we tailor the next year according to that info.

Marketing:

City Council asked if we should do the bike series in the future; should we do the pentathlon? There have been ongoing discussions about that. We don't know yet. For next year, the direction is still let's do both. The bigger question is should we doing that in years to come or should we see if anybody else wants to do it? That's worth discussing in this setting I think.

Weik: For the bike series, the budgeted amount always seems to be significantly off from the actual cost to put the race on. If it's actually \$21,000 and we're predicting \$46,000, why the difference? Why are we constantly saying it's going to cost more to put on than it actually turns out to be?

Kretzschmar: Emily was on sick leave this summer, so her salary didn't hit the budgeted amount. So the budget is probably in this case more accurate than the actuals. The budget is a fairly accurate projection of what it really cost; the actuals this year are not as good.

Weik: How about for 2016?

Kretzschmar: Again it had to do with how we allocated labor. That did not work last year; it did not work the year before in terms of accounting. But the budget is the correct reflection in terms of salaries how we think it should be allocated.

Weik: So for 2018 we'll probably have a more accurate result because we're going to track it better?

Kretzschmar: Hopefully we're going to track things better.

Weik: There are people who are passionate about Town Challenge and concerned about the possibility of it going away, and these numbers would seem to indicate that there's not as much of a problem as they have been told. If there's a real issue financially, these don't paint that picture. 2018 is going to need to be the thing that paints that picture, or there won't really be a way to explain that to all the people who like Town Challenge.

Kretzschmar: Correct. So we're working on good actuals.

Weik confirmed that the same issue exists for the pentathlon.

Robinson:

Administrative:

Pretty small compared to the rest of the department. That entails John, myself, Kyrill and the front desk Ally and admin.

Parks:

Personnel is part of the operations side.

The Parks department has a supervisor who's in charge of several full-time employees; many of them are shared with other divisions. So when we talk about an FTE, today your hat's on over here for this season, then you do several jobs.

Special Events:

Triple Crown we have a contract with.

Summer Sports:

Adult leagues are run through our recreation program, as well as local youth leagues. There's a couple adult leagues like rugby that are independent. So we're doing a lot of prep and maintenance of the fields. In addition, we take care of all the city facilities, landscaping, and all the parks that are not recreationally active.

There is some Parks staff who take care of the Core Trail, for example, but then we allocate a small percentage of their time to other maintenance.

Our contract services went up by 27%. That is primarily because of extra work that we have for next year with the downtown streetscape improvements project. We have more benches, more bike racks and more trees that have been planted. That is something that the Parks Department takes care of. We're working with Finance to separate what we call our streetscape line items. We take care of medians and then all of downtown all the trees; we take care of right-of-way trees in neighborhoods. As those numbers go up, it looks like our Parks budget is increasing; it's not your parks that are driving that number; it's the streetscapes. In addition, we have an agreement where we water the flower barrels downtown that rotary provides and rents out throughout the town; that cost is increasing.

Waste Services: There was some discussion about the amount of trash around town with the amount of tourism and special events we're running and not having enough staff to keep up with it. The City Manager's office asked us to increase our budget there, so we'll be looking at opportunities to hire outside contractors to help us with trash services if there's a way to do that.

Sponsorship Fees: We have \$65,000 in there. That is our annual contract with Triple Crown, so that's an annual expense while the contract is in effect.

We didn't get any new staff or personnel, but we did reclassify some positions to try to give them a little more pay for a little more responsibility – hopefully yielding better results for us. We had challenges this year with a portion of our field crews that we ended up not having things work out for both parties, and they're not with the city anymore – about halfway through the season. If you lose someone halfway through the season, it's next to impossible to get somebody back. So we're trying to make sure we're getting people trained properly and paying them appropriately for the work they're doing.

Equipment: We have a new mower that we're replacing for just mowing soccer fields at Emerald Park. They request a lower height for soccer field play, and we have a \$69,000 mower that will be purchased to mow those fields. We're going to take the older model that we have today, put that out there and replace that in the rest of the parks. That's a big production mower.

Botanic Park:

It has an endowment fund that is used to operate the facility. They pay for their operations; the city pays for the personnel. There are no full-time employees down there; there's a crew leader and seasonal employees. We assist where we can, but they pretty much act independently. At the end of the year, we saw a 3% decrease in their overall budget.

Trails:

Really this is the Open Space and Trails division. We separate our budgets so we can track the numbers better when we talk about the cost per mile that we're spending on maintenance. What's our cost per acre? Staff time on salaries was basically a reallocation of time. Last year we had a new Open Space and Trails Coordinator who was approved full time year round. In 2008, we had several full-time year-round employees in that division; last year we had 0, so we're building back up.

Contract Services is an increase by 75% to \$35,000. That is for concrete repair of the Core Trail and maintenance of existing trails and tunnels, and a little bit of equipment rental for a mini-excavator for some work we're going to do.

Operating supplies decreased 77% from \$9,800 down to \$2,300. We had budgeted for bear-proof trashcans this year; we're buying them; we've got plenty of trashcans for a few years. They're expensive.

Weik confirmed that the city will be using employees and contractors for trail maintenance.

Weik said she would like to see the cost per mile of what it costs the city to do it in house.

Robinson: Sure. It's a challenging number.

Weik: Right, but I think the way you've got this broken down by trails versus open space, as you said, that will shred it out a little bit better.

Robinson: I ran these numbers for John; I think it was around \$1,900 per mile for city staff. I'll double check. Our goal previously was to get it up to \$2,500 per mile, which was kind of the national standard, and we're still below that.

Salaries went down.

Our tree removal budget went up by 200% to \$12,000. That is because of the Bear River Park parcel; we have a lot of dead trees on property lines we are responsible for taking care of. We don't want them falling on private property, so that's something we have to act on.

Weik: On the tree removal, I'm assuming the 2016 actual of \$85,000 included the matching grant we had for the tree removal on the Morning Gloria area.

Robinson: Yes. Normally, they don't put it in my operating budget; for some reason they did through this process. It's cleaner when we have grants and capital projects kept separate.

Weik: The 2017 budget was \$4,000 and the actual was \$21,000. The 2018 budget is \$12,000. So I'm glad to see that you're bumping up the budgeted amount acknowledging that perhaps our continuous tree removal costs are not \$4,000.

Robinson: Yes. We have staff assessing these areas. Even Emerald with the tree mitigation project we just did, we're still going to have trees fall down. They may be more susceptible to winds now that there's less stand around there to protect them; so we'll be doing that maintenance.

Howelsen Ski Area:

That facility really sees the most shared employees between the ski area and the Parks system. Not only do we share full-time employees, we get a lot of the seasonals who we're happy to recruit from summer operations and move them over to snowmaking or lift operations. Facilities Maintenance has some line items in there for what they had termed enterprise fund accounts. While we really don't call them enterprise funds anymore, they have their own criteria – I guess we talk about it a little differently than we do the Parks budget, for example. We have that allocated overhead line which is City Hall Services; it's rodeo grounds, the ski area, the tennis center, the golf course and the ice arena all are kind of looked at differently than the rest of the budget.

With the ski area as a whole, not a lot of change to year-to-year operations. The one item to note is there's a transfer from the general fund. This year the dollar amount has gone down by 9% to \$850,000. We're keeping the same hours. We've gotten a little bit of extra funding this year; we're working with the WSC and they're bringing the Continental Cup, a big international event. It's coming through Steamboat in early December; it's taking more resources to host that event, so there is going to be a boost to our budget as necessary to make sure we can pull this off.

Weik: What do the grooming expenses for Nordic or alpine fall under?

Robinson: Grooming there's two line items: Fleet Services is the cost that we pay for all of our fleet maintained equipment, which is three snow cats and a pickup truck. Operating is in the seasonal line items and some salary line items. The average cost for the three snow cats is about \$200 an hour with an operator. That includes the fleet replacement cost to the equipment.

Weik: Have we ever considered outsourcing that?

Robinson: We've had some conversations about that. It would be challenging. If someone ran the entire ski area, that'd be great. If we wanted to outsource one aspect of the operation, by removing for example a Nordic groomer and having someone groom the Nordic trails for us, that puts us down by one snow cat. Our level of service from our Fleet Services Department is Fire and Police, snow removal, then the ski area. We do have cats go down that aren't repaired instantaneously like they are at other resorts, or they have 20 snow cats to choose from. We have one alpine groomer, one winch cat and one Nordic groomer, so we're much more limited. If we remove one snowcat from our operations, we'd be pinching ourselves even harder on the rest of our operations from pushing snow around in the beginning of the year to grooming, day-to-day operations in case a snowcat broke down, and then at the end of the year we also push snow off of the face and do all kinds of work around the facility for events. So in that regard, it's the unseen cost that you won't know until you don't have a snowcat here to take care of all those extra items.

Weik: You're implying that the groomers we use are interchangeable between Nordic and alpine?

Robinson: To a certain extent. In a crunch, our Nordic cat will groom the face if it has to, but it's not the proper tool to do that. But if our alpine groomer is down, and we have a race that we're putting on, and maybe even the winch cat is broken – they have both broke at the same time before – it's going to groom the face for that event or public skiing.

Weik: I ask because I've lived in places where the city did not do the Nordic grooming.

Robinson: Compared to the cost of Howelsen Hill as a whole, the cost of Nordic grooming is miniscule compared to the cost of the alpine operation.

Robinson:

We went from \$10,700 to \$14,500 to replace the sound system in Olympian Hall. We don't have that budgeted, and we're trying for 2018 to get that in there. It's in dire need of repair.

Rodeo:

Facilities Maintenance has some line items there. Our subsidy from the city is \$187,000 for the rodeo grounds.

One area where we did ask for some more staff this year was at the rodeo. We asked for a seasonal part-time 0.25 FTE parks worker, which is basically three months. That was based on last year when we had more people coming in and doing events at the facility. Our primary responsibility there is to host the PRCA-sanctioned rodeos every Friday and Saturday night. The community benefits by having a public arena to use. People get to come in and rent that facility out if we can accommodate them. We were stretched to a point where we probably weren't able to accommodate the extra events that people were asking for. We had the three Bulls and Bands event last year, and there were discussions about having an entire series. We had to back off on that. So now we have an employee if we want to host more events there.

We're putting some more funding into our R&M buildings and grounds to help us clean our bathrooms. We're increasing our budgets for general line items for road-base sand and maintenance supplies. While it is a new facility, it still gets beat up and needs a lot of work.

Tennis Center:

While this is technically under the operations of the Parks Department, we separate it out budget-wise because it is just like the rodeo and ice arena from the perspective of the Finance Department.

One larger item is the R&M buildings and grounds planned maintenance for the Facilities Department. That's gone up by about 348% to \$38,000 from \$8,500. A lot of the concrete in the parking lot and on the structure is going to be redone, and the fabric needs to be patched and/or replaced in some areas.

Transfer from the general fund is \$163,000 for that facility. Not a lot of changes to the budget otherwise.

Weik: One of the things that concerned me when I saw the initial version of the budget information that went to Council at the beginning of October was that they had apparently requested all the departments to do a budget drill for if you were going to chop things, what would you chop. The part that concerned me as a member of the Parks and Rec Commission was that the things that staff had identified to Council as potential targets were plowing the Core Trail in the winter; doing summer maintenance on Emerald; and doing Bear River Bike Park maintenance. Those are the ones that caught my attention because those seemed to be the ones that would generate the most controversy in town. When is a good time in your estimation to in future budget iterations let the rest of the Commission know that that's been notionally proposed to Council so I'm not finding out by reading the Council packet.

Robinson: It was an exercise that we were tasked with towards the end of the budget process. We were given a matrix looking at contractual obligations, legality, public opinion/political ramifications. We had to say high or low and kind of give our best guess on estimates. These are numbers at this point in time; at the end of the day, Council would be the one that would have to cut these budgets. How do we get it to you sooner to look at it? That's a good question.

Weik: That would be awesome. It's not the fact that we're considering cutting things; that has to happen or at least has to be voted; but I would like to see the Commission kept in the loop in that process. I get that Council gave all the departments that direction straight to them, but somewhere along the line where there is a Commission or other body – I'm sure that the Golf Course Commission would also like that information to come back with what is proposed to be cut as far as the golf course.

Robinson: I agree. We can get all of this to you earlier next year. That will be a goal for us.

Weik: I would appreciate that.

Robinson:

For the cuts that we did make this year: From our Land Management division, we eliminated a management contract for one of our dams; that's a savings of \$5,000. We eliminated the purchase of dog waste bags that were requested by Steamboat Digs Dogs. We eliminated some survey work to help us get a better finish grade at Bear River Park; that was \$6,000. We eliminated some work on Emerald Mountain that we had proposed last year as well.

Koermer asked about the status of the proposed capital improvement projects.

Robinson said he didn't have the list in front of him. He reiterated that they did not get the project manager they were looking for.

Robinson: As you know, we're behind in some of them already; my West Lincoln Park project was supposed to be done in 2017. We struggle to get these done with the existing staff that we have while trying to operate and maintain our existing areas. From the original list that we proposed to you, we ended up deferring some of them, which also helped our budgeting process. Those are now deferred to 2019 and out from there. I will bring back the actual list next time.

Koermer: With the deferred CIP projects, did you take that into account when you looked at your operating expenses for routine and preventative maintenance related to those items? Are you increasing what it would cost to continue maintenance since those projects are being deferred? Or is it not really applicable?

Robinson: Yes. Little Toots Park, for example, was slated for a playground replacement in 2019. We're comfortable with the condition of it that it does not need to be replaced. Could it be better? Certainly. Maybe we need to do some more work or replace one piece of equipment or something like that. Generally, it's pretty strong material and is not going to break. The problem with that facility is it's outdated; it's not as ADA friendly as we would like; and with the new improvements that were just made at Yampa Street and 12th Street, it could look a lot better than it does today. So while I don't see a lot of extra maintenance coming in there, that one we felt comfortable pushing for a year. We've pushed our irrigation plan for parks further down the road as well.

Koermer confirmed that the snowmaking main line replacement at Howelsen was approved.

Robinson: There's \$1.5 million put in the budget for a chairlift replacement, but that's not enough money. I think Council felt like it was going to be a commitment to supporting the facility yet not fully funding the project and looking to partners to come up with the rest.

Landslide mitigation I think there's \$50,000 in my budget, but there's some additional funding in the Facilities division's budget.

We have ball field improvements that are in there annually for Triple Crown dollars where they give us \$15,000 and we're required to spend \$65,000. We don't spend it every year. Based on the improvements we're trying to achieve, if it takes two or three years' worth of savings to build that dollar amount up and then execute a project, that's what we're doing. We're talking about working on some irrigation replacements next year at Howelsen Park. It has to be on fields that Triple Crown uses.

Koermer said he would like to see the final budget and capital improvement projects for 2018.

Watson: It's just disappointing. It's going to be this constant shell game robbing Peter to pay Paul until we come up with a true alternative funding solution for parks. As long as we're on the same budget as Fire and Water, we'll never win. You guys are stuck. I can't imagine the frustration. I'm empathetic. You guys do a ton for what you have, so I applaud your efforts, but it's just frustrating to see.

Commissioners agreed.

West Lincoln Park Improvements

STAFF PRESENTATION

Craig Robinson:

My goal was to come back to you and talk to you a little bit more about how I was going to be moving forward. I apologize; I don't have that all nailed down right now. What I did want to do is reaffirm what we heard at that meeting via a motion.

A couple little changes: I mentioned my budget was \$150,000; in all reality it's \$149,355. If we feel a need to raise more money, it's not something I can have take time. It needs to be a very quick process if that's something we're going to move forward with. I can request carrying this funding over from 2017 to 2018; I don't know of a situation where it's been denied. It's easier to have it tied up in a process with a contract or a purchase order or something like that. That was my goal. But if it's not tied up in a contract, I'm fairly confident we'll be able to carry this over.

There are some options for the musical instruments and the active amenity. I attached some options.

There's one company out of Durango that makes numerous instruments which are very interactive and some are pretty artistic-looking as well. The information I've seen so far is that they're all powder-coated steel, so they're going to withstand the elements in the park. We're hoping we don't see a lot of vandalism. They probably will need some maintenance. Those little wands will probably be ripped off at various times.

There are other companies that provide these amenities. Some of them look a little bit more like that manufactured playground look like some of our other parks and may not be as appealing as something like this. We've got a budget of around \$50,000 for both the musical instruments and the play structure. It looks like we have around \$100,000 left for the structure, and we still have to get rid of the River Queen. We're investigating whether we can repurpose some of it or somebody wants it.

We'll continue to talk with the Creative Arts District and any others who are interested in weighing in on usable elements. They do sell packages of 3-6. Our vision is that this is a separate component than the structure. Having them incorporated into the structure is probably going to be a nuisance for those who are renting the structure. So we want to provide some separation and spread people out within that area; we do have plenty of space in the park. For that third active element, we had initially talked about some boulders, which I had attached some ideas and concepts that are out there. The price range for those is 20-\$40,000 installed. As we've talked with staff and others who have weighed in, this really isn't as inclusive as some other active playground amenities might be. Swing sets and items that spin help with early brain development when you have motion activities like that. No matter your disability (blind, deaf, whatever,) you can get on a swing set or a spinning thing. Those are ADA accessible. The boulders are a little more limiting. We're continuing to have a discussion on what the best active amenity is, but what we heard from this group and from the community was that it needs to mesh and be part of that creative place making and accompany the structure we're trying to build there. So if you have any insight on those items, we'll take that into consideration as we move forward.

I'm going to read a statement that could be a basis for any motion you chose to make: Based on public and commissioner comments, staff heard a desire to move forward with a shade structure that provides shelter from the elements (shade/rain,) is no to low maintenance, is vandal-resistant, is ADA accessible, and can be reserved by the public for gatherings or events and has low-level lighting for security and possible cameras installed. The design concept should be similar to the conceptual design presented by Gerber-Berend taking on themes from Steamboat such as: a hay shed, library, bus shelters, depot, and other iconic structures that make Steamboat special. The concept of an outdoor musical playground was embraced with some active play opportunities on site (boulders, nature play, swing set.)

I thought it would be good to reaffirm that that's what we heard through the public process, so that's what I'm asking for in the motion tonight. Based on whatever motion you make, staff will continue to work through the process that I'm directed to work through to execute all these improvements at West Lincoln Park. We'll work with any interested parties on these improvements and the design concepts and go through the city process. We will not exceed our budget that the city has funding for. If funding comes from others, we have a process for how that money would be accepted and spent.

Robinson reiterated the challenges provided by the soils and springs at the park.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Weik: Is there a plan to get additional input before finalizing the design of the shade structure?

Robinson: We have the concept; that's what I read to you. Based on that and on the Gerber-Berend plan that was shown, what we heard was this isn't quite it; it's close; we're going in the right direction. But I was not planning on bringing the plan back here for official approval at the end of the day.

Weik: I don't think you need to bring the actual plan back to the Commission. Looking at the picture of the shade structure, it doesn't channel any of those items for me other than ugly. I don't know about anybody else, but I was hoping there was going to be some more design process. I think a lot of people are attached to the look of the River Queen. Maybe a lot of people aren't, but I don't think anybody is going to see that as a similar replacement in any way, shape or form. I don't think it has to have the steamboat theme, but this seems very generic. It doesn't seem to channel anything iconic of Steamboat.

Tumminello: I chaired the meeting. It was a pretty in-depth meeting with lots of good comments. I think those who were at the meeting – both in the Commission and the public – liked the structure and its concept with some basic changes we asked for so it could be used for picnics and a rented facility. We were all pretty positive on it.

Weik: That's what I was looking for is how much discussion has happened around the design?

Tumminello: Hours. I would say on the design issue if you have comments to get in touch with Kim Keith at the Creative District. With regard to the next steps, what in fact are the next steps where you take this whole concept from concept to RFP?

Robinson: That's where my challenge lies. If I have to go through the RFP process, I'll be forming a design committee for the RFP verbiage to put a very particular concept out there that's exactly what we're looking for for design-build. That same committee will also be part of the design approval. I will probably get numerous submittals from all the manufacturers that provide playground amenities, and we might get some private ones from Berend or others who are interested in bidding on this project. So at the end of the day, we want an all-inclusive group to be able to decide what is the best item to choose.

Commissioners confirmed that there is a possibility it may not have to go to RFP.

Robinson: I have the ability perhaps to do that through a city process; we're just working on steps to see if all parties would be interested in doing that. If that is the case, it makes the RFP process a little bit easier. We won't have to go through it.

Tumminello confirmed that the Creative District is still involved in the project and staff would continue to work with them and other city departments such as Maintenance.

Koermer: You brought up the disposal of the River Queen. It's a city asset, correct? Is there any option – it's an iconic part of Steamboat – to auction this thing off to try to get the public involved to raise some funds. Maybe somebody wants that at their home or at another park.

Robinson: I thought someone had mentioned they wanted it; maybe it was Kerry Kaster himself. If he's interested, we'd love to help whoever it is take it.

Weik and Koermer expressed reservations of trashing the structure.

Robinson reiterated that it's falling apart.

Robinson: There's very little steel holding that structure up. There's a couple steel braces holding up some glue lambs, and it's all built around that. So it's not like you're going to pick this thing up and move it; if you're going to take it apart and move it, you may as well take it apart and rebuild it wherever you're moving it to. If there's an opportunity to reuse the smokestacks or the paddlewheel or anything else, that's what we're going to be looking for is to try to repurpose what we can. We'll talk to the final designer and throw those options out there.

Koermer: It could be repurposed in the new structure, potentially.

Koermer wanted to ensure there is a contingency amount in the budget.

Robinson said there's a 20% contingency built into project budgets, which could go up to 25% if necessary. They will be coordinating with the Public Works Department and getting soil samples.

Robinson: Initially, we budgeted \$40,000 for the shade structure, which is what we had at Howelsen, and we had about \$95,000 or so for the playground amenities, (similar to Howelsen,) and removal of the River Queen and a little extra work for sod and irrigation replacement and stuff like that. So we had the 150 planned out; it's just that we have a different idea coming through the community process and now our costs are flip-flopped; the structure is the expensive item.

Koermer asked for feedback as to whether this has been vetted through the public process enough and if we are ready to bring this to a motion.

Commissioners agreed that it had been.

Keith: I think the day it disappears you'll hear a lot.

Robinson: Kim spoke to replacing an iconic structure with what people perceive to be another iconic structure for Steamboat – something that makes it more special than our traditional playground and shade structures.

Watson: The iconic structure that's currently there is falling apart. Ten years ago I didn't let my kids play on that. It's kind of dangerous. So I fully support this.

MOTION

Commissioner Watson moved to support improvements at West Lincoln Park as described in Craig Robinson's statement and in the packet. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners lamented the fact that there was no one in the audience to facilitate a public discussion.

Other Business

Howelsen Hill Vision 2040

Tumminello: The first public meeting is scheduled for next week. It's next Wednesday at 5:30-7:30 at Townies. We talked about taking the questions discussed at those meetings and reaching out to our assigned groups asking those same questions.

Koermer said Kyrill has started his outreach to local schools.

Master Plan Update

Robinson: We had our first phone call last week of our weekly phone calls with the consultant kicking off the process. They're starting to look at scheduling with user groups most likely in December. We'll probably be lumping them into categories.

Watson asked for the commissioner responsible for each user group to be copied on any emails.

Tumminello: Lots of park planning.

Robinson: One of the goals that Kyrill has been working on with the consultant is we don't want park planning burnout. We're looking for input from everybody on what they'd like to see and how we're going to take care of these existing amenities and improvements if we can figure out a way to get them built. But we need to hear from people.

Next Meeting: Possibly November 22

Future:

December 13 – Possible Topic: Outdoor performance venue at Spring Creek Park

No meeting December 27.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tumminello moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.