

PLAYGROUND STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
CITY OF PENDLETON
August 30, 2016

A regular meeting of the Playground Steering Committee was held in the Parks & Recreation Office Meeting Room at 6:00 PM, August 30, 2016, with Donnie Cook presiding.

PRESENT: Paul Chalmers
Darcey Ridgway
Shelley Liscom
Donnie Cook
Greg McLaughlin
Roger Stueckle

ABSENT: Dawn Di Furia

IN ATTENDANCE: Antonio Sierra, East Oregonian

1. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 6:05 pm by Donnie Cook, Parks & Recreation Director.

Minutes: no previous minutes to approve as this was the committee's first meeting.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Agenda Review and General Discussion

Donnie Cook reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting.

b. State Grant-Local Government

Paul Chalmers asked for more information about the state grant process, which was provided by Deb Whittaker. Greg McLaughlin questioned whether it was possible to re-open the playground by building up the perimeter of the play area to add sufficient chips to make the fall height safe over the concrete footings. Cook stated that building up the chips put specific play elements too low, such as slides. In addition, the structure is out of level, which has stressed and cracked connectors. New connectors still wouldn't line up. Parks consulted with the professional playground installer who was in Pendleton installing school playgrounds and their recommendation was to remove the structure and start over. Chalmers asked about a maintenance/replacement fund and Cook explained a small Parks Trust account is the only mechanism available and he had budgeted \$30,000 in 2016/17 anticipating using part of it for grant matching funds. Additional matching funds could come from Pendleton Foundation Trust, Wildhorse Foundation and several others.

c. Bundling Option For State Grant

A general discussion occurred about how bundling works for the state grant – different sites with work of a similar nature where substantial cost savings are obtained. Committee members received an email copy of the Clacakmas County grant, the first time this had been used to bundle playgrounds. Chalmers asked Cook what he would do. Cook stated he would defer Aldrich and Vincent because of the proximity of Pioneer Park. Whittaker said she would prefer all of the play areas were roughly the same size so that the bundling grant request closely resembled the successful Clackamas County project. Chalmers asked about including security cameras and whether that improved life expectancy of equipment. Cook said most playground vandalism is felt pen that is easily removed and occasionally a rock through a slide, which is a minor repair.

Whittaker reviewed the timeline for state grants, application in spring 2017, state committee decision in fall 2017, followed by pursuit of competitive bids, with construction of playgrounds estimated in spring 2018. The alternative is replacing each playground as a stand-alone project over time. Stueckle felt that something needed to be accomplished at Kiwanis Park much earlier than spring 2018. McLaughlin urged that some compromise be considered in the meantime as a good faith gesture understanding it would mean some additional risk. Shelley Liscom disagreed with deferral of Vincent and Aldrich stating that Sergeant City playground isn't an option and that Pioneer is too far from other North Hill neighborhoods. Any plan should keep one or the other. Darcey Ridgway agreed with Liscom as she has observed many people using Aldrich in particular. Liscom asked if the \$30,000 could be used to purchase something for Kiwanis Park, that the many families who were involved in Little League really missed having that resource this summer. Cook stated that the \$30,000 is his entire budget fund for any emergencies in parks between now and June 2017, so it wouldn't be feasible to devote the entire amount to the Kiwanis playground. Stueckle stated that the Kiwanis Club doesn't really understand why the playground can't be used now. Cook stated that the site would need to be dug out about 2' in order to install sufficient chips and that would only address one of the issues.

Stueckle felt that his funding sources could help replace the structure at Kiwanis Park sooner than the state grant schedule. Whittaker suggested that the state grant could still include a small structure, consistent in size with the other parks, supplementing the equipment obtained by separate Kiwanis fundraising. Community Park East's new playground with multiple components was cited as an example. Stueckle advised he would be meeting with the Kiwanis board on 9/8 and he would be presenting the options to them at that time. In order to solicit his funding sources a specific play structure would need to be selected. If Kiwanis agrees to fund one of multiple components, the committee agreed that the bundling option would be feasible.

McLaughlin proposed structuring the bundling to spend \$30,000 each at Aldrich, May, Sherwood and Kiwanis Park, with swings to be installed using regular Parks funds over time at Aldrich and Vincent. The committee agreed with that proposal.

d. Budget Variables – Surfacing & Community-Build

Whittaker reviewed these variables to budget. The committee agreed that surfacing choices other than engineered playground chips were not supportable due to their high cost. The small gain from community-builds on these smaller projects and the time and difficulty involved also made this an unsupportable option. Liscom emphasized the importance of making ADA a priority.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

For the next meeting, Whittaker asked the committee plan to think about how community input might be structured for the project since this is a point category for the state grant. She also asked them to bring a list of other funding sources they may have contact with or be aware of in the community.

4. NEXT MEETING

Sep 27, 2016

5. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:50 pm

Approved By: _____