



CITY COUNCIL & PARKS COMMITTEE
October 30th, 2017 WORKSESSION
Time: 6:00 pm
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia, OR 97064

Mission Statement

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

MINUTES

Councilors In Attendance: Mayor Leonetti, Councilor McNair, Councilor Hult, Councilor Seager and Councilor Wagner

Parks Committee Members in Attendance: Scott Laird, Brittanie Roberts, Casey Mitchell, Heidi Matheney, Tim Anderson

Staff in Attendance: City Administrator Mitchell and City Recorder Borst

Media Present: Scott Laird, Vernonia Voice

Call to Order -- Mayor Leonetti

Mayor Leonetti called the meeting to order at 6:01

Additions or Removal of Agenda Items

Councilor McNair made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager.

Votes: Councilor Seager: Yes

Councilor Hult: Yes

Councilor Wagner: Yes

Councilor McNair: Yes

Mayor Leonetti: Yes

Motion carried.

New Business

- Greenman Field Grandstand Discussion

Councilor Wagner stated for the record, that she is a School Board Member and can stay objective in this discussion. The remaining Councilors expressed no objection to her participation.

City Administrator Mitchell explained for the group the process for the proposed shoring project and that the project cost is \$15,000. She added that the seating has no known structural issues, the issue lies with the roof.

Parks Committee member, Tim Anderson, stated that he would be in favor of removing the roof and just leaving the seating.

Parks Committee Member, Casey Mitchell, explained that with the football games no longer being held at the field, the purpose for the grandstands is no longer there. He proposes a baseball or softball complex be built at the location to generate park income. He is hesitant to spend the funds fixing it without a plan for the space that would utilize the grandstands.

Parks Committee Member, Scott Laird, explained that he had reached out to Facebook for ideas for the space. None of the ideas would generate enough money to warrant fixing the grandstands.

Parks Committee Member, Steve Whiteman, explained that whatever was done with the field would have to generate consistent enough income to justify fixing the grandstands.

Councilor Wagner expressed concern that once the grandstands are removed, they couldn't be rebuilt in the same location. She would like to see them stay.

Parks Committee Member, Heidi Methaney, explained that unless there was someone whom could actively organize events at the field. The group then discussed that finding that person would be difficult, as well as getting people to pay for events there.

Councilor Seager stated that the School was under contract for maintaining the grounds and he would like to see them contribute toward the fix.

Parks Committee Member, Britanie Roberts, explained that she is also a School Board Member. She would like to see the school contribute toward the fix as well. She inquired as to what the expected cost would be to fix the roof. City Administrator Mitchell explained that it would cost roughly \$150,000 to replace the roof structure. Unfortunately, that amount is 1.5 times the entire yearly park budget.

The group then discussed items that need to be done in the park. Councilor McNair stated that he would not be in favor of fixing the grandstands without the school sharing the cost. Without a purpose for the field, he would not be in favor of spending funds to fix or replace the grandstands.

Councilor Hult proposed that rather than spending money to fix the current grandstands, proposing that the school build new ones up at the school for the new football field. Mrs. Mitchell explained that if the group decided to remove it, there is potential that the Fire Department could do a practice burn.

The group then spent some time discussing potential uses for the area and that hosting large events would cause other issues (High traffic, parking, etc). One proposed use that had majority support was additional camping in the wetland areas.

Don Normand explained that its already difficult for the City to maintain the fields we have. He hates to see the grandstands go, but doesn't see anyone stepping up to organize events at the field to justify keeping it.

Dale Webb would be in favor of additional camping as it would create revenue. He hates to see it go but doesn't see it being used.

There was discussion on whether or not the lease is still valid with the school refusing to maintain the bleachers as stated in the contract. No conclusion was made.

Mr. Mitchell inquired as to what kind of liability the city would have if the roof went unfixed. Mrs. Mitchell explained that the grandstands will have to either be shored up or fenced off. Consensus of the group is to have City Administrator Mitchell attend the next school board meeting and request that they fence the grandstands to limit risk and to maintain the lease agreement. She will also propose rebuilding the covered grandstands at the new field.

Councilor Wagner expressed dismay that the school has not maintained the structure, but that she would be in favor of splitting the cost with the school to shore up the roof.

Adjournment

Mayor Leonetti adjourned the work session at 7:51 pm.

These minutes were approved at the November 20th, 2017 City Council Meeting.


Stephanie Borst, City Recorder


Mario Leonetti, Mayor