



City of Sidney, MT  
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting  
May 23, 2022 4:00 PM  
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

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The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 899 1501 7834 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

Others Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Cole Fink and George Biebl

**1. New Business**

**a. Ranger Hockey Rink in Quilling's Park**

Mr. Fink stated the Alumni Association and Hockey Board purchased this rink and with how much work it is to take up and take down and with the soccer players stating they would enjoy it being left up to keep their soccer balls from going into the street, they are asking to leave the boards up year around. He stated if they are able to be left up, they will be over to fix anything, fresh paint, and if need be he could weed eat around the outside of it before it is mowed. He stated it took 3 weekends of 12 people to put up the rink. He stated they would also install the chain link fence at the ends that will help keep the soccer balls and hockey pucks inside of it and off the streets. He stated being a full size hockey rink they have doors wide enough to fit a Zamboni, so the soccer nets and a mower could fit inside of it.

Alderwoman Christensen asked PWD Hintz and Parks Superintendent Ridl if this causes issues. Parks Superintendent Ridl stated she talked to the Soccer Association who stated they would not bring the nets over if it is in place. She further stated when she irrigates the park it is with pipe that would not work with it installed. Clerk//Treasurer Chamberlin stated she discussed this with the Cities insurance and they stated that it is fine as long as there is an agreement in place with an indemnification clause and liability insurance provided. PWD Hintz stated the area is used a lot in the summer for soccer and he would prefer to not have it there during the summer. He stated he has no issue with it being there in the winter.

Mr. Biebl stated a couple of years ago the Park and Rec Board was looking into purchasing a temporary ice rink with a liner that would save on water usage. He stated that is an alternative for the Committee to consider, it would cost between \$10,000-\$15,000. He stated businesses or sponsors could donate to it, which would solve the problem for all. PWD Hintz stated this system is called E-Z Ice and would take about an hour to put up and is stored on a couple of pallets and it was being looked into when they were looking into the remodel of the warming house. He stated

they do make them large enough for hockey, but that is not necessarily the size they were looking into originally. Mr. Biebl stated he looked into one that is in Bozeman and discussed the put up with the people there, and they reported it is an easy process.

Mr. Fink stated if they were able to sell their rink, it wouldn't necessarily sell for a large amount of money. PWD Hintz stated maybe there is an option for them to sell and donate that money for the rink. Mr. Fink stated he has seen these types of rinks and they are a lot easier to use. Mr. Biebl stated he lives across the street from the rink and it was amazing how much use it got, day and night.

Alderwoman Christensen asked if there was somewhere else it could be put and left up and PWD Hintz stated he does not know. Mr. Fink stated it is 85 foot wide by 190 foot long, so it is larger than one thinks. He stated it can be shrunk down since it will be used primarily for skating and not just hockey.

The Committee stated they understand how hard it is to put up and take down and how hard it is to get volunteers. Parks Superintendent Ridl stated Bret Allan with the Soccer Association stated with 20-foot nets that are not easy to maneuver, they don't feel it would be easy to put them inside the rink. She stated they also had concerns because the 4 foot walls will not keep balls inside, and so they will have to chase them outside the rink. She stated one area would be in Pleasant Manner Park area and PWD Hintz stated there is water there, but he would have to look into the FAA since it is by the air port.

Mr. Fink stated if the City can come up with a new permanent location, that would be great, but he will start taking the rink down in Quilling's Park.

Alderman DiFonzo agreed that Quilling's Park isn't a feasible location for it to be permanent.

Motion was made to not allow the rink be left up all year in Quilling's Park but it will continue to be looked into for another location for it to be.

Motion made by DiFonzo, Seconded by Godfrey.  
Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Godfrey, Christensen