



City of Sidney, MT  
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting  
March 13, 2023 5:00 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: 878 2249 8621 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

**Alderman Present:** DiFonzo, Christensen, Godfrey

**Others Present:** Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Chief Kraft, Shay Steinbeisser and Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), Pete Erickson (Sidney Tiger Sharks Swim Team)

**1. New Business**

**a. Quilling's Park Ice Skating Rink**

PWD Hintz presented the Park and Recreation Committee with 4 options for an EX-ice Skating Rink for East (Quilling's) Park. They were:

Option A: 80' X 120' Style #4, with end nets for \$22,380.00

Option B: 80' X 120' Style #1, no end nets for \$11,840.00

Option C: 60' X 100' Style #1, no end nets for \$9,150.00

Option D: 60' X 100' Style #4, with end nets for \$17,630.00

Option E: 85' X 200' Style #4 (double height), with end nets for \$34,470.00 (NHL Regulation Dimensions)

PWD Hintz stated they would recommend Option 4 with the end nets for \$17,630.00, as this would serve for both free skate and playing hockey at the rink. Alderwoman Godfrey asked what the bottom of it is and PWD Hintz stated it is a liner with straps under that keep the walls up. She asked if there was a way to see through to advertise under the ice and PWD Hintz stated there could be advertising on the ends at the nets. Alderwoman Godfrey stated we would need to budget more than the \$17,000 and PWD Hintz stated yes, closer to \$23-24,000 to include shipping. He stated it takes approximately an hour to put up and take down and stores on a couple of pallets. Alderwoman Godfrey asked how this would effect the parks budget and

projects and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this would be included in their equipment budget.

After discussing the option presented and available budget, motion was made to recommend budgeting for Option 4 and shipping costs.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by Godfrey.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Godfrey, Christensen

#### **b. Svarre Pool Dock Proposal-Swim Team**

The Park and Recreation Committee was presented a plan from Interstate engineering with 3 options to address the bulkhead issue for the Sidney Tiger Sharks. The options included a permanent bulkhead with raising the pool floor for \$350,000, a modular aluminum bulkhead for \$100,000+ and an anchored modular bulkhead and raised pool floor for \$300,00.

Alderman Christensen asked who is paying for this and Mr. Steinbeisser stated funding options would have to be examined but the Swim Team has raised some funds for the removable one. Alderman DiFonzo asked what the bulkhead is needed for and Mr. Steinbeisser stated it is for the swim team events to make the pool 25 meters as needed instead of the full 50 meters. Alderman Christensen asked if the permanent one would be cutting the pool in half and Mr. Steinbeisser stated yes but it wouldn't affect the flows with the tubes through. Alderman DiFonzo asked if this would be a solution to the issues with the existing dock and the gutter issues and PWD Hintz stated that he would have to look into it further but the other issue for the existing dock was the safety of the existing dock not being engineered and just home-built years ago. PWD Hintz stated the dock doesn't break the gutter every year, but it does crack frequently. Mr. Steinbeisser stated they did modify the existing dock to make it longer to address the gutter issues.

PWD Hintz stated he would rather see a portable dock instead of a permanent one. Alderman Christensen asked if there was a reason why the pool was built the size it was and PWD Hintz stated the swim team at the time was in a different federation, needing the 50 meter pool, but when they switched federations, they had to have a shortened distance and that is when they built the existing dock.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the dock is used by other reasons other than swim team and Mr. Steinbeisser stated that splitting the pool could create the opportunity for having two parties at the pool at once. Alderman DiFonzo asked they should consider the raising of the pool floor and Mr. Steinbeisser stated this is for the better use of pool by younger kids. Alderman Godfrey stated that currently the younger kids are taught lessons in the slide pool and Mr. Mayer stated the younger kids are not able to utilize the main part of the pool and congregate around the shallowest end.

Mr. Mayer stated the purpose is to see if the permanent is even an option with the City and if not they will continue to work through the details of the plan. He stated the raising the pool floor was brought into the discussion just because of public comments and seeing the use of the pool. He

stated once they know which direction to go in, they can look into funding options and fundraising.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if there is a chance they will be changing federations again and the issue at hand is the temporary bulkhead, not so much the floor raising that can be done anytime. He further stated fundraising of the money should fall on the swim team who needs the dock. Mr. Peterson stated Sidney is the only 50 meter pool so the federation could not change it back to 50 meters without excluding all other other pools.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked about the storage of the bulkhead and PWD Hintz stated it is stored at the City Shop and not an issue. Alderwoman Godfrey asked about the projected life span of the pool and if doing this change would affect that and PWD Hintz stated the pool is almost past its expected life span. She further asked if the return on investment would be beneficial, and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the City gets around \$35,000 in ticket revenue so it would take 10 years to pay for the permanent bulkhead unless fundraising or property taxes paid for it. PWD Hintz stated the cost savings on water and chemical would not be large enough to make a difference.

Alderman DiFonzo stated fundraising would be easier for the modular bulkhead and if/when the City decides or needs to they can look at raising the floor. Mr. Mayer stated the modular bulkhead could become permanent at a later time. Mr. Steinbeisser stated if they City decides to raise the floor it would be financially better to raise the floor prior to painting and possibly including the permanent dock at that time.

Alderman DiFonzo stated with the pool being 30 years old it is time to start looking into improvements for the pool and this could be a part of that with fundraising and asked if it was feasible to allow them to use the existing dock for another season and give another year to look into this. Mayor Norby stated he does not see an issue with them using the existing one for another year and Alderman DiFonzo stated that would give opportunity to gauge public participation on funding.

It was the general consensus of the Park and Recreation Committee to allow the swim team to use the existing dock for another season to give opportunity to look into the options discussed and fundraising.

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm.**