

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
December 4, 2017

Present: Committee Members LeJeune and Buxton; Council President King; Council Members LeJeune, Clausen, Larmore, Scott and Sovinski; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Mayor Hazel; Council Member Elect Eric Baltzel; Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard; Kevin Sandler, WCSM and residents.

Committee Chairman LeJeune called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm for discussion of the Eastview Park Montgomery Field project proposal.

Andy Mikesell, Celina Baseball Coach reported on the damage at Montgomery field from the tornado. He explained the concession stand is still usable, but not in the best shape. It is not ideal for use. Because of its size, there is not enough space for both equipment and workers. He presented council with a drawing of a proposed new facility that would include a press box big enough to allow for 15 to 20 people (needed for the Mariners), a concession stand and dugout. The objective is to make all three bigger and better. The price for a block structure is a lot more than a wood frame, plus the construction time is longer. In doing research, if they put up a wood structure with metal panels, the metal panels can be popped off and replaced easily if they get beat up. Prior to the tornado, they were planning to add another batting cage next to the current cage. These plans include an indoor batting cage that could be used all year round. The total expense for the building is estimated at \$63,000, but they hope it can go below that cost. The payment is intended to run through their non-profit organization. If the proposed facility is approved by the City Council, they want to start a fundraising effort.

CM Clausen asked what the current size of the concession stand is today. Coach Mikesell responded it is approximately 23' x 11', less 4' for the stairwell.

CM Sovinski stated the dugout is in line with the third baseline, and a ball thrown from third to first could go into the dugout. It was explained the dugout was positioned this way because the light pole is in the way. CM Sovinski asked how difficult it would be to move the light to make the layout more symmetrical. Director Hitchcock stated MUSCO will be coming in this week to evaluate the lighting and Administration can ask the about the possibility of moving it. CM Larmore suggested the light not be moved left to right, but instead moved to the back of the building.

Director Hitchcock explained the City will be receiving \$34,000 from the insurance company for the concession stand and press box. This money will be used to demolish the structure on site for preparation of the new structure. The lights and fencing insurance have not been determined. There are two lights down, but the others will be evaluated for damage.

CM Buxton asked how close to the roadway going into the park is to the proposed structure. Coach Mikesell responded 5' to 6'. They plan to place concrete posts to help with safety.

Wright State's baseball season starts in March. The high school season begins at the end of March to early April. Games may need to be moved at the beginning of the season to allow for completion of construction.

Mayor Hazel explained there are a lot of donations of materials and labor coming in. With council approval, the baseball organization would build the structure and dedicate it to the City.

CM Sovinski asked if they have talked to the State regarding compliance with state code. Coach Mikesell responded they have an architect lined up to do professional drawings to be submitted for state approval.

CM LeJeune asked if someone wanted to make a donation who they reach out to. Coach Mikesell replied they can reach out to him. They plan to get nameplates as a baseball legacy for people involved in and support the program.

CM Clausen asked if they should consider better ventilation or air conditioning with the indoor batting cage. Coach Mikesell replied there should be enough openings to get ventilation through.

JT Irmischer asked if the \$34,000 is the replacement value of the original structure and how the actual value will be determined when the new structure is completed. Mayor Hazel replied the insurance company determines the value.

The construction timeline is to have it up the first of April at the latest. Director Hitchcock stated the demolition can be done in a week. It is not being removed now to protect the field turf from potential vandalism.

Director Hitchcock stated the evaluation for the bleachers has not been yet determined. There is money available to purchase new bleachers. The insurance company had a dollar amount established for the press box. But all other items need to be appraised per individual item. Mayor Hazel stated there is a donor who is willing to replace the bleachers, but we are waiting for determination from the insurance appraisal.

Jacci Piper expressed concern of them starting fundraising and then not receive support from Council. Director Hitchcock stated worst case scenario is to rebuild what is there the way it was.

CM LeJeune made a recommendation to present the proposal to full council. Recommendation passed with a voice acclamation vote of committee members 2-0 aye. An official voice acclamation of acceptance of Administrations recommendation in support of the proposed structure will be done at the next Council meeting to be held December 18, 2017.

Chairman LeJeune adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council