

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
COMMUNITY MEETING
PARTF PROJECT PRESENTATION

December 2, 2013
6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Minutes & General Account

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Members Present: Lawrence Straughn, Chair; Steve Owen, Shanna Moore, Robert Pickett, Charles Dowdy, Al Bartko, and Lynn Tice

Town Council Representative – Brock Thomas

Staff Present: Chuck Smith, Matthew Johnson, John Crowe and Martha Wolfe

Visitors Present: Keith Volz, Steve Williamson, Hugh Cates, Shanna Moore, Mark Cromer, Donald Ellis, Joe Simmons, Becky Straughn, Kerry Miller, Sharon Owens, Ben & Linda Sirmons, Mark Pond, Ervin Cole, Greg T. Stine, Larry Boswell, Tom Tervo, Pete Grimmer, George Kennon, Fred Kelly, Carol Brooks of the Jamestown News, Jesse Cross, Reggie Tice, Marty Wordell, Ed Stafford, David Anderson

1. Call to Order – Chair Lawrence Straughn called the meeting to order.
2. Community Meeting for the Public Presentation of the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant Jamestown Park Project – Chairman Straughn welcomed everyone for attending. This meeting is to present to the public the Town's plans to apply for a PARTF grant and to present to the public the details of the Jamestown Park Project. Straughn encouraged the Public to ask questions and to interact with the Town Staff.

Chuck Smith stated at the last Council meeting the Council did pass a Resolution Supporting the PARTF application. Staff is now working through the application process. Staff met with Vonda Martin, PARTF Representative, today. She shared information with them on items within the application.

Smith said that public support and public meetings are a big part of an application process. Smith stated staff has set up visual displays showing the Jamestown Park Project. They encourage the Public to come up and look at the displays and ask questions of the staff. Smith also stated that there are printed surveys that we are asking the public to please fill out and return to the Town.

Chairman Straughn asked the Town Manager to please give the public an overview of the proposed project. Smith stated the PARTF grant application is centered around: 1. The Baseball fields and 2. The Golf Course.

Smith stated that several years ago we identified improvements that needed to be made to the baseball fields. There are drainage issues at the baseball fields. The baseball fields have a crown in the middle of the field. It is not conducive to be set up for two baseball fields. We would like to re-grade the fields, improve the drainage, add irrigation and construct new dug outs.

John Crowe, Parks Superintendent, described the proposed project for the Golf Course. The project consists of tee boxes and greens renovations. Crowe described the existing tees boxes and the proposed tee boxes. Hole #1 is a very long hole. By adding forward tees, this would make the hole more playable and increase the number of players. This would open up the course to more players and gives more options for play at the course. New tees are also proposed for holes # 9 and #14.

Crowe said many of the greens have slopping issues. This hurts the placement of pins and makers which makes it harder for the average golfer. Hole #3 probably receives the most complaints. Holes #4, # 8 and #9 are also proposed for greens renovation.

Smith stated that most of these proposed projects have been on the Town of Jamestown's CIP project list for up to 4 years. They have been shifted out due to funding. The PARTF grant is a source of funding for these projects.

Presently listed on the CIP Plan:

- Re-work and enlarge Tee Complexes
- Renovate/replace greens
- Replace drainage system at the Base Ball Fields
- Base Ball Field Lighting (repair existing poles and add 4 new poles)

Smith stated the total cost of the project is \$646,000.00. If the Town is awarded the PARTF grant it would fund half of the cost of the project. The Council will designate the Town's source of funding the other half.

Tom Tervo asked if the planning is in place or are you hoping to get constructive suggestions. Tervo asked how many greens do you proposed to change. Tervo stated he assumes we are changing the grasses on all the greens. What he would like defined is that by changing does that mean the contour/topography of the greens. Crowe said holes #2, # 3, # 4, #6 are proposed to be re-shaped. All the greens will be resurfaced. Smith said generally greens and tee boxes are to be re-shaped and establish Bermuda grass on all 18 holes. The holes will be re-shaped as necessary. The project will include funding request for sand, pre-plant fertilizing, fumigation, grass sprigs and cover for greens. The total cost is \$210,000.00.

The project consists of adding the forward tees and reshaping greens to make the course more playable. They are not anticipating any fairway work at this time. Smith stated the detail plan has not been created as of yet. We are looking to push forward with the plan we have. This plan was created by Richard Mandell in 2010. (Renovation Business Plan Report) If we get the funding we have five (5) years to complete the project. We will then create the detailed plan. Staff (John & Michael) met with contractors to get cost estimates. These are not bid prices, but he feels fairly confident in the pricing.

Hugh Cates stated if awarded the grant the Town would pay half and the State pay half with 5 years to complete the project. Smith said from date of signed contract we would have 5 years to complete. Smith said the Council would have to approve the funding source for the Town's portion. Council may wait and build funds in our Capital Reserve Fund. The Town would have to front all the money and then get reimbursed for the 50%.

Cates asked if there were any plans to upgrade the Clubhouse. He understands there is a potential grant to construct a bridge across High Point City Lake to connect with the trails. He just read there is a survey that says 64% of people believe that recreation is one of the most critical things for the geographic area in which they live. People believe recreation is important. It is good that Jamestown in years past, have committed ourselves to recreation for a broad spectrum of age groups. In looking at this, would it not be better if we bundled together and went for a bigger grant to get other projects done. He feels there is a way to do this in a different manner. He wondered if there is any way that we could issue a Jamestown bond. Smith said this has been discussed before, but there is not support for issuing a General Obligation Bond. Cates said perhaps then issue a note, let the people that want to support it buy into it. Banks are paying very little on CD's. The Town could offer a note and pay 1% or 2%. People could buy a \$1000.00 note paying 2% interest. Therefore, fund the project internally. He is trying to think of different ways to fund the Town's projects.

Smith stated one of the issues with taking out a loan is collateral. We cannot use anything at the Park as collateral because everything at the Park will always remain a Park. Smith said the Town will hopefully submit the PARTF grant application in January. The grants are awarded in May and a second round (funds permitting) in August. We are trying to solidify a funding source that we can move forward with this application.

Smith said regarding the pedestrian bridge on E. Fork Road, that is a totally separate funding source through the State. We cannot apply that grant to the park.

Cates said the Park is a 40 year old park. Any asset within that length of time needs renovation to attract people and increase our play.

Kerry Miller asked how much of our previous investment in irrigation has to be ripped up and replaced to do this project. Do we know the replacement cost. Smith said we know there is going to be some cost involved. It depends on whether we enlarge the greens or we have to raise the irrigation system. The exact dollar amount if not known at this time.

Smith said we are proposing a cost of \$210,000.00 for the 18 greens re-shaping and establish Bermuda grass. The tees construction cost is estimated at \$251,000.00. Discussion occurred regarding fairway work for holes #2 and #16.

Another proposed project for the PARTF application is the addition of a 9-hole Disc Golf Facility. This would be an additional use at the Golf Course to bring new use and new patrons to the park to play. There is already a lot of excitement about this project. Staff proposes to locate this course in the wooded area where shelter #3 was situated. Again, bring more people to use the recreation facility.

The Jamestown News reporter asked in what order the projects would be started. Crowe said he would like to address the Golf Course first. He feels the Golf Course would be closed about 10 weeks for construction. (weather permitting) The Baseball Fields Project would have to be scheduled around play at the baseball field. He believes June and July may be a good time to do the Baseball Field Project. He would like to get it all done in one year.

Crowe discussed mowing practices with Hybrid Bermuda grasses. He discussed the maintenance costs of the grass. He feels there is a long term savings to using the Bermuda grass. With Bermuda grass you only have to aerify once a year. Presently, we are aerifying twice a year. This will be a savings to the

Town. Probably aerify in July so as not to disturb the greens in spring and fall when the course is heavily used.

Cates stated the total cost estimate of \$646,000.00 sounds low to him. Smith said Crowe just went through the process about a year ago. He is familiar with the process. Also, with John's experience and knowledge we can do some work in-house which will be a savings to the Town. Smith said he is pretty comfortable with the prices.

In his meeting with PARTF Representative, she felt the scope of the project and the \$646,000.00 cost estimates was a good candidate for a PARTF grant. However, Oak Ridge and Pleasant Garden are applying. They have worthy projects as well. If we do not get the grant the first time we apply, we can apply again with the Council's approval and the community support.

Straughn asked the public to come up and look at the displays and talk with the staff. He thanked everyone for coming. The Public spoke with staff one on one about the project details.

Straughn stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will officially adjourn. He encouraged the public to stay and talk with the Town Staff about the project plans. Brock Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Charles Dowdy made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ending at 7:25 pm.