

**Special Meeting Minutes:**

10/7/24 5:30PM

**Board Members Present:** Joseph Fietek, Josh Stromberg, Misty Praska, Dante Irvine, Ashley Seim

**Community Members:** Lori Seim, Cory Seim, Marcus Lewis, Dennis Markusen, Waylon Lietz, Nina Hollingsworth, Dustin Slaamod, Ann Berg, Nancy Thompson, Mandi Seim, Alli Olimb, Andy Erickson, Brandy Erickson, Duane Berg

Special meeting setup to discuss the land below the hospital - this land is owned by the city; the park district maintains it. The park board needs to come up with a recommendation to give to the committee prior to the city council meeting on 10/15/24 as they have the legal rights to this land

**Discussion:**

Joseph Fietek discussed the options to Josh Stromberg as he was not present for the prior meeting - diagrams were presented as a visual for Josh. Joe reviewed the area below the hospital, the area informally known as the "Koenig house" and other options that were suggested.

The park board was informed by the city attorney (meeting on 10/3/24) that there is no current lease on the land that the park district maintains therefore the city has the legal rights to sell the land despite century code. The park district did have a lease on said land, however it expired in 1997.

Joseph states he is against the sale of the land. He believes it should remain as such as it has been set up for a disk course and has been used by the community- the proposed parking lot disrupts the flow of the course, thus moving or replacing the disk baskets isn't a reasonable option.

Dante agrees with Joseph as to the recommendation for the city to not sell the land for the same reasons.

Misty asked Marcus Lewis about the big difference in dollar amount of the parking lot option below the hospital versus the lot located at the Koenig house with having a 501c3 status and tax dollars being used for projects. Marcus stated that because the projects are in different locations, going with the lowest bid does not apply. He stated that they do try to move forward with the most reasonable options when it comes to the work getting done (as opposed to the difference in price based on the location)

**Lease and/or Deed options for the areas maintained by the park district:**

Because the lease(s) have expired for the land the park district maintains, the park board will need to explore options so that the park board has the legal rights for land maintained by the park district.

Joseph will follow up on leasing options. Once options have been explored, the park board will need to meet again to determine how we move forward (ie. land we continue to maintain v land we no longer maintain)

Misty stated if the course is unusable and needs to be relocated, she would suggest the park district no longer maintain this area, but because the lease would include the pool, area below the pool/hospital, area near the river/golf course, dog park, and old baseball diamonds, this will take much consideration.

**Recommendation:**

Josh sees it as a benefit to the hospital to alleviate the parking issues - he sees it as a good option but also wants to keep our parks intact

Marcus stated the hospital would be willing to add safety measures to prevent cars in the lot from damage due to flying disks

Dante explained to the group that it would be disruptive to 3 holes opposed to 1 as suggested by Marcus. Waylon Lietz states that the staging (for construction) is temporary and hopes to be able to come up with a plan to be able to work together but also meet the needs of the hospital.

Josh stated that he would be okay with the parking lot if the hospital would pay to have the course and/or disk baskets relocated. He also sees the point of view of Dante and Joe and would be okay with the recommendation to not sell the land.

Marcus states the hospital would be able to come up with a plan to aid in the moving or relocating of disc baskets and/or course, if necessary.

Ashley reminds the group that while the city may or may not agree to the sale of the land, it would still need to go to the public bid. This process would mean that anyone can place a bid for this land. It is not an auction style where an entity may come back with a higher bid.

Marcus Lewis states that there will be cameras as an added bonus to having the parking lot near the disk course and will help deter vandalism.

Ashley does not see the course existing in this space with the parking lot - She states there will not be parking for the course attendants if the lot exists because the location where people enter to use the course is in the same location as the proposed staff parking lot. Ashley has a hard time seeing how these two things will co exist together.

**Final Recommendation:**

*The park board recommends that the city does not sell the land.*

Motion to Adjourn: 1. D Irvine 2. J. Stromberg

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After discussion from the board and all members giving their thoughts on the land, they as a whole do not feel it's in the best interest of the park district to have the land sold. Below are some reasons:

- It will take away 1/3 of the Frisbee golf, that's a loss of 3 holes; the park board was looking to expand this in the future by adding more holes to the course.
- The park board has maintained the land for years at their expense along with all improvements to the land.
- A parking lot at the bottom of the hill would prevent access and eliminate use to the park on the west side.
- The hospital has other options for a parking lot. (The property of Marco Eklund at 122 Prospect Ave N)

These are just a few reasons.

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