

CIVIC NOTES
Civic West, West Fargo, ND

1. Name of West Fargo meeting

Park Board Retreat

2. Location of meeting

Rustad Center

3. Date of meeting

March 17, 2025

Start time

8:00

End Time

2:30

4. Quorum? Yes

Yes

Quorum? No

5. Est. # of public members in attendance (excluding staff and officials)

21

6. Could the public speak? Yes, explain

Could the public speak? No, explain

No, I was the only Public person. I asked a few questions though.

7. Explain any issues with how the meeting was conducted or proceeded

Very well conducted. No issues. They were very courteous to me.

8. Provide a brief summary of the meeting

See attached

9. Explain any agenda items of particular significance

Big and small Park projects discussed. See attached

10. Other comments or observations

See attached

11. Name of observer

Everett Duckworth

Date submitted

March 21, 2025

WF Park District Retreat Notes from March 19, 2025

By Everett Lee

District Workshop meeting today, March 18, 2025, was to provide direction from staff, emails and others regarding the parks Goals and Expansions. They want conceptual input on the following:

#1 Equity versus impact. Equity would be how many people are being served per area vs impact would be the largest number of people served. The discussion included trails along the river Sheyenne and along the diversion. On April 22nd there will be a meeting at bridge rivers bend from 5:00 to 7:00, most likely at Rustad to discuss a bridge project. [Note that the conversations didn't always follow a logical order]

[There were 11 staff members plus Amy Zindel, the new executive director and six board members and four park foundation members.]

#2 Historical investment, such as projects that have been around the longest versus the current demand, such as projects that get the most traffic. Discussions included Armour Park to include possible snowshoe and frisbee golf. This is an older facility. They tried frisbee golf in the past and it was a bad outcome that included a lot of garbage and drug needles. Possible improvements for better trails but no buildings proposed. Possibly add a bridge. [The park district spends approximately \$13 million per year north of the Interstate and \$6.5 million per year South of the Interstate]

#3 Enhancement, such as keeping the same types of facilities versus innovation, such as new stuff like sand volleyball facilities. They want to attract more people. They want to be proactive in providing new facilities versus reactive.

#4 User experiences versus financial efficiency, such as building Rendezvous Park facilities being built in long stages. Some were in favor of doing work in stages while other commissioners felt that they should all be built at one time.

#5 Year round access versus seasonal access.

#6 Demographics versus general public. Demographics would include people interested specifically in hockey, etc. versus the general public interested in a park facility. The Vets arena was paid by private funds. The highest revenue is \$200,000 for hockey arena use but it also has the highest maintenance cost. 70,000 is the approximate revenue for indoor volleyball. 20,000 is the approximate dollar amount for baseball.

#7 Proactive versus reactive which is a repeat of a previous question.

The following are five projects that are being considered and should be voted on by the commissioners in ranking of A through G. Item A is a score of one for no urgency and a

score of 10 for very urgent. B is a score of one for little interest and 10 for great interest. C is a score of one that is not feasible and 10 a very feasible. D has a score of 1 of high effort and low return and 10 as low effort and high return. E is a score of one with low alignment of goals and 10 of high alignment of goals. F includes a score of one for very unlikely and 10 of highly likely and finally G includes a score of 1 that includes no increase in mills of money while a score of 10 includes a high increase in the mills for money.

#1 The Rustad expansion. This work would be approximately \$16 million. The Rustad currently turns away two inflatable parties a week at \$275 per party or about \$10,000 a year. The expansion would include another field to accommodate these parties. Additional volleyball and pickleball courts would be included and a senior citizens room that is bigger than the current room being used for coffee. The field would still be available for exercise classes.

#2 Includes improvement to the Farm at Elmwood Park which is on the South end of Elmwood Park near Sheyenne St. This expansion would cost approximately \$5,000,000 and include wedding facilities and possibly an ice skating path.

#3 Is a proposed golf course but this option is too expensive at \$28 million.

#4 Veterans arena is currently undergoing a \$3,000,000 reconstruction project but another \$7,000,000 proposal would include a 3rd ice sheet, concessions and retail.

#5 Formerly Scheels Feld, this area is located just West of Elmwood Park north and currently includes a small parking lot. The \$5 million expansion would include lacrosse and soccer fields complex additional parking.

Smaller and Projects would include the following:

#1 Armour park.

#2 Tintes park would include pickleball, a warming house and a rink for winter and a party room.

#3 South Elmwood Park improvements would include new drainage storm drainpipes along the western side. Currently all the trees along the western side are dying and will need to be removed. New parking could occur at this location.

#4 Meadow Ridge park improvements would include a new bathroom and trails.

#5 Tower soccer park. Possibly sell some of the land. Much of the area is currently dirt.

The Foundation versus the District:

The foundation included Mike O'Keef, Misty, Christy and Joe Karn. [Sorry about the spellings.] Amy has been approved to be the executive director to help coordinate between the foundation and the district. The foundation includes some programs and

events and private partnership with the district. Giving hearts day included about \$20,000 to go for new equipment for the park district. The foundation would like to advertise more in an effort to solicit more private donations. The foundations 2nd event typically is a golf tournament. In general, the foundation would provide feedback to the park district regarding projects. The foundation and the district will enter into a MOU specifying staff resources, monies and events.

Other park improvements: Other improvements would include basketball courts, splash pads, sand volleyball, traffic safety, and park pavement areas for kids learning bicycling skills. Would also include fishing docks which the city has 1 dock at Brooks Harbor park. Potentially a new dock and kayak launch facilities may occur near Sheyenne St. and the Interstate but other locations would be considered.