



Brookland Parks Committee
613 Holman Street
Brookland, Arkansas 72417
Brookland City Hall

Date and Time of Meeting: 9/19/2022 6:00 PM
Type of Meeting: Regular

Committee Members Present: David Loggins, Julie Thomas, Justin Ladd (by phone), Sharon Hopkins, and Bobby Bishop
Others present: Mayor Kenneth Jones, Jason MacDonald

Meeting called to order at: 6:02 pm
Called by: David Loggins

Motion by: Sharon Hopkins
Second by: Bobby Bishop
To: Approve meeting minutes from August 2022
Motion passed
For: 5
Against: 0

6:03 Jason MacDonald, from Fisher & Arnold, started the discussion by talking about the three different bids received for the Brookland Sportsplex. All three bids are significantly higher than the committee had anticipated. Jason proposed a few different aspects of the bids, which may be reason for the higher costs. One such item is lighting for the complex, which is estimated at \$1 million dollars above the original projected cost. The committee noted that the lowest bid received is \$4.7 million dollars to complete the entire sportsplex project.

6:04 David Loggins discussed the different bids with Justin Ladd (on the phone). Loggins mentioned that artificial turf for the playing fields is \$2.8 million dollars for the entire project. According to Loggins, none of the bids received include artificial turf for the playing fields. Loggins also discussed that the current bids do not include costs for the walking trail or playground.

6:05 Sharon Hopkins discussed the bids being much higher than the committee anticipated. David Loggins included that Mayor Jones is currently in the process of reviewing the tax-exempt status for the bonds with the Brookland city attorney. Loggins mentioned that Mayor Jones will update the committee on the tax-exempt status timeline for those bonds when he verifies the correct information. Mayor Jones mentioned a few different options to generate more revenues for the Sportsplex project. Jones discussed the traffic signal light upgrade, which is a different bond issue. Mayor Jones included that the city might use franchise tax money for the traffic light upgrade in order to re-allocate funds and finish the sportsplex project. According to Mayor Jones, roughly \$1.6 million dollars is needed in order to finish the park with walking trail and playground.

6:08 David Loggins asked about the cost to complete the walking trail. Mayor Jones responded that it would take approximately \$165 thousand dollars. Jason MacDonald included that the concession building, and the lighting components were the largest portion of increased cost in the bids. Mayor Jones asked about the lighting. MacDonald said it was roughly \$1.2 million dollars. MacDonald mentioned that cost includes lighting for the 3 large fields and the rest of the park area. The committee had previously discussed leaving off lighting for the 2 smaller fields of the sportsplex.

6:10 Jason MacDonald discussed different components of the sportsplex plan and how those components have increased significantly since the parks project began. MacDonald mentioned how asphalt is tied to the cost/price of oil, which has gone up in price for the past couple of years. MacDonald continued by mentioning how the big-ticket items are the concession stand and field lighting. Mayor Jones asked about the dirt work and whether or not it was from a local bid. Jason MacDonald stated he had a couple of local businesses call about completing the dirt work, but the current bids did not include a local bid. Discussion continued about bids from the different companies and their variances and the line items for the separate bids.

6:13 Mayor Jones expressed that we may be at a standstill temporarily with the sportsplex, however, we will move forward with the two smaller parks.

6:15 David Loggins asked about when the smaller parks would be completed. Jason MacDonald expressed that it might be complete around late summer of next year (2023).

6:17 Julie Thomas asked about getting a line-item breakdown of costs from the submitted bids in order to begin working on a fundraising campaign. Jason MacDonald said the committee can get a line-item list of the various costs if needed.

6:19 Discussion continued among committee members about cost/budget discrepancies.

6:22 Justin Ladd discussed current interest rates on loans where he is employed, being at around 8%. The meeting ended with the committee deciding to reject the bids submitted and consider other options in the near future for moving forward on the sportsplex project.

Motion by: Sharon Hopkins

Second by: Bobby Bishop

To: Adjourn at 6:22 pm

Motion passed

For: 5

Against: 0