

## City of Connell, Town Hall Meeting, April 13, 2015

Attendance: Mayor Blackwell, Councilmember Ray Minor, Gene Stocking, Chris Neilsen, Jed Crowther.

### Discussion Items:

- 1. Pioneer Park Pavilion Work** – Gene Stocking gave criticism of contractor work to protect tile pavers. He inquired if plastic over tiles could be utilized?  
*Jed informed that contractor did not drive any equipment over the tiles and was very careful to preserve the tile paver squares; one corner did crack, however, the corners will be finished with a smooth diagonal cut and maintain or improve the symmetry and appearance. Jed additionally informed that the foundational connection between pillars and floor would be better incorporated, because former construction methods had failed to do so. All in all, a major improvement.*
- 2. Esser Field** – Gene Stocking asked strongly to pursue use/ownership by the City, with potential conversion to soccer fields. He asked the City to initiate discussion with NFSD, and supply nets by City.  
*Jed informed that the property was owned by NFSD and their purposes for the property have not been fully determined or made known. Recently, NFSD did separate and sell the old grade school portion. Bus garage expansion into Esser Field might become a possibility, but it would be driven first by NFSD intentions for the property, not by the City. Constraints and limitations were also identified;*  
*1) Expansive Park area was already in place by the City. 2) Current conversion of Striker Park to soccer. 3) Financial and other obligations, including increased maintenance and operation, watering, mowing, insurance, liability. 4) Responsibility for all recreational wishes is not the sole burden of the City; Parks & Recreation program does well to create successful programs, but cost to do so is not self-sustaining, and there are limits to City budget allocations for recreational activities through the general fund.*
- 3. Noble Fields** – Mayor Blackwell acknowledged the valuable donation by Carl & Marti Noble. Priority use by school, available for community use also.  
Chris Neilson suggested consulting school sports committee for use of fields by the community.  
Gene Stocking reiterated the desire to pursue Esser Field for competition soccer, regulation-size.
- 4. Pool Use** – Gene Stocking asked for better advertising/promotion/marketing of the City pool; to make hours known, to post signs, to utilize website, Post Office, etc.  
*Jed informed that the Pool Manager listing had been posted, lifeguard posting upcoming next week; with preparation well ahead of last year for a successful season. Pool hours, schedule, and fees had been addressed through the budget process last fall and would be refined by further public discussion at Park Board meetings. Data showing actual participation will gauge efficiency in scheduling and use. Promotional and marketing efforts will invite, inform, and welcome pool use.*
- 5. Boy Scout Eagle Projects** – Gene Stocking criticized City response to accommodate Eagle projects; that the City had denied a recent park bench request at the Cemetery.  
*Mayor Blackwell made it clear that the Cemetery Board governed use of the Cemetery, and that it had nothing to do with the City. Jed was aware of the recent denial and had pointed the applicant to CBJLS for consideration because of his immediate timeline to install; in no way had the City denied access. In fact, just last fall, the City streamlined a very successful Eagle project for fire hydrant inventory. Mayor and Public Works Director are fully available and responsive; to welcome proposals and details.*
- 6. Spring Cleanup Weekend** – Gene Stocking inquired about spring cleanup weekend, household materials disposal and if it was advertised. He again noted frustrating barriers in working with the City.  
*Mayor Blackwell responded that Fire Chief Schulte was taking care of it and it would be advertised.*
- 7. Irrigation Repairs on Columbia Avenue** – Chris Neilsen reported that one repair was leaking near Community First Bank. He shared City water quality concerns relating to ConAgra Lamb Weston.

Closed at 6:50 p.m.