

Pelican Rapids Pool Board Meeting
Monday, April 29, 2019

Kate Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Pool Board Members present were Kate Martinez, Amy King, Jackie Larson, Mark Dokken, Dave Gottenborg, Irina Arntson. Others present were Don Solga, Brian Olson, Brent Frazier, Steve Foster, Brent Blake.

Steve Foster, city council member, spoke to the board about community support. He feels that the pool committee will have a lot of community support due to the mention of a swimming pool at several past city meetings. He also feels that the committee needs to be concerned about the initial cost of construction and the affordability of the pool and its future sustainability with operating costs and maintenance.

Dave spoke on the sustainability of operating cost for a pool on an annual basis and the need to be careful when looking at the increase in operating cost.

Don suggested that the committee approach the city council and ask what is the goal or a comfortable number for an operating budget so there is a better idea of how much money can be spent/amenities that can be included.

Mark spoke with city administrator in his hometown of Benson, MN, that went through a pool construction 12 years ago. At that time it was a 3 million dollar project. He discussed their operating budgets and things that have gone well for them and things that they struggle with. Benson is on their 3rd set of boilers. They run a contract with Community Ed to provide staffing and the city pays the bills. The city administrator mentioned there are several negatives to a pool but would definitely do it again. Make sure to consider affording essential services within your community (police, fire, streets, etc) before adding expenses to the pool operating budget. Benson has a \$100,000 operating cost per year.

Kate will reach out to Parkers Prairie and Amy will reach out to Willmar to find out more about their process in building their pool.

Brent Blake spoke about fundraising. He would like to get the buy in from the local Bell Bank branch manager, Diane Hanson, and then move up within the organization. He also asked how would the committee like to start our fundraising efforts- Brick project? Start with large donors? He also would ask for an initial donation plus a sustainability donation over years to help with operating costs.

The committee decided to hear from Design Intent to solidify design and operating budgets prior to approaching the city council and soliciting donations.

The committee discussed how to accept donations for the pool project. City Attorney, Greg Larson said that the city is tax exempt so could directly accept donations for the pool project.

Dave discussed finding out where the council sits with the issues of yearly sustainability of operating costs as well as the idea of passing a referendum to pay for a difference.

The committee decided to reconvene as soon as possible to meet with Design Intent Architects and invite Diane Hanson, Bell Bank to move forward with a pool design and operating budgets.

The next meeting is yet to be determined as Brian is finding out when Design Intent can present.

The meeting concluded at 6:28 pm.

Minutes recorded by acting secretary Amy King.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "A" and "K".