

City of Weiser
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES

A PUBLIC HEARING to present and receive comment on the Proposed Grant Activities CDBG Park Improvements was opened by Mayor Randall Hibberd at **6:31:17 PM** with the following present:

PRESENT: Layna Hafer, Larry Hogg, Cliff Barberis, Mike Hopkins, Sterling Blackwell and Marg Chipman.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Randall Hibberd, Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Margaret Taggart, Mackenzie Kissell, Troy Krahn, Bill Taylor and Sherri Breaux.

GUESTS: Phil Janquart, Christina Stanley, Adeanna Jenkins, Hunter Mizar, Thereasa Rasmussen, Katie Von Brethorst, Ginger Taylor and Herb Haun.

PROPOSED GRANT ACTIVITIES CDBG PARK IMPROVEMENTS. 6:31:32 PM

Mayor Hibberd, this is a Public Hearing to talk about a proposed Community Development Block Grant for Park Improvements. This project has morphed over time, it originally started with me trying to get a Mayor's Youth Council started and asking High School students what they wanted to see in town. One of the things they talked about was improving our parks to have things for kids to do. Another thing they wanted to see was a sidewalk from the High School to Memorial Park, since Memorial Park is used for a lot of the activities. We got a grant for the sidewalk, it may not go as far as we wanted, and the only reason it's not being installed right now or installed right now is because so far we are unable to find any contractors who have time to do it. Other suggestions for the Park were having an inflatable movie screen so there could be movies on Friday evenings, things like ping-pong and corn hole. To help things along I went to the Blue Crosses Community Health Academy, at the end of the Academy they gave each of the participants a \$20,000.00 Grant to be used for something health related and using it in the parks fit that bill. This Spring they also had two \$85,000.00 grants available for people who had gone through the Health Academy, we did not get one of those. But because we started the way we did by going to the High School and getting input from kids they gave us \$10,000.00 as a bonus prize, so we have \$30,000.00. This Spring when we had the Rural Success Summit at the Vendome, Adeanna from Region IV Development made some remarks about Park Equipment. The two of us got together at that time and began talking and there's money available for using in the Parks. I originally wanted to see a walkway around the Park, I wanted to see the Cornhole and the Ping-Pong and that sort of thing, but when we looked at things, the Play Ground Equipment there is pretty much at the end of it's useful life. We looked at just replacing pieces and parts but it turns out the bones themselves need to be replaced. That kind of took president over the other parts of the project that we wanted to do since the playground equipment probably gets more activity than any other part. We have a bid that we'll talk about later on, but this meeting is just for public input on the pros and cons.

6:36:30 PM – Mike Hopkins, is there a time frame that's associated with it that it needs to come forward? Mayor Hibberd affirmed.

6:36:49 PM – Adeanna Jenkins, Region IV Development. We are an Economic Development Company. When the Mayor asked if I would be interested in helping I said yes and then asked my boss. This particular grant comes through the Department of Commerce and the funds actually come down from HUD. Because it's tied to the Department of Housing and Urban Development there's some different strings attached to the funds that sometimes don't seem related, but they are. Commerce gives about 7.5 to 8 million dollars annually for these different Grant Programs. To be eligible you have to

be a city or a county, be from a low to moderate income area, and the grants themselves have to solve a health or safety issue. The different categories of the grants are: Public Facilities (Water, Wastewater systems), Fire Stations, EMS Buildings, and those grants can come up to \$500,000.00, those grant applications come around every November. Senior Centers and Community Centers, those are up to \$245,000.00 and happen in the Spring. Economic Development is tied to job creation, a lot of times we can come in and help with the infrastructure, those are typically around \$400,000.00 grants. Imminent Threat, I have a case in Oakley, one of their Wells went dry, those are a little lower I think that one is \$100,000.00. Then there's Public Parks, this is the newest type of grant that is offered through this program. Typically those are up to \$245,000.00, they like to see playgrounds, making the parks more accessible to anybody that needs assistance, sidewalks, etc.

6:40:09 PM - This one is a little different, when the Mayor and I started this process I told him all the perimeters and stuff, then they changed the type of grant on us this year. That is because they have a bunch of CARES money available so they rolled this out. The program normally marks for \$245,000.00 but they are up to \$250,000.00, there is also no match required, which is not normal. They are really excited to reach areas that they haven't been in before and this is one of them.

6:41:08 PM - The applications are reviewed annually, these are due September 22nd. There's a thousand points possible, so they will still score all these grant applications. Sometimes they get set aside, they don't get moved on, there's kind of an initial round then they go to the Governor appointed Economic Advisory Council for review. Out of the 1,000 possible points the Park Assessment Conditions and Resiliency is 400 points, Project Implementation, how we are going to get this project done is 250 points, the Benefits is 150 points, Project Match is 0 points and the Economic Advisor Council has 200 points possible for their scoring portion of it.

6:42:16 PM – There are strings attached to the funds. Davis-Bacon is required on the construction part of it. If you are in agreement, I will complete an Environmental Assessment of the Park. There is also Fair Housing requirements as well. Adeanna then read what Commerce says this is all about, it's called Public Parks for Resiliency Idaho Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant CARES. “Public Parks for Resiliency Projects must improve, expand or create outdoor recreation opportunities that will help the community increase their long term resiliency and ability to mitigate future corona virus out breaks. The project area will be required to meet the low to moderate income area wide benefit national objective. As I told you before it's \$250,000.00, priority will be given to existing parks and the funding will be focused on improving park facilities which consist of playgrounds including equipment, ADA accessibility and within the park, courts, pathways and ADA accessible restrooms. These applications where due between August 21st and September 22nd. Funding announcements will be made mid November and these projects have to be completed by December 2025.” This is a typical Park Application, we do provide them a lot of information to show that it's really a necessary project and we are confident it can be completed in a timely manner.

6:44:50 PM – I have a quasi budget that I can share with you. Mayor Hibberd, why don't we hold that for the City Council Meeting portion of it. Adeanna, we looked at the whole cost of the project which will include the demolition and haul away of the existing structure. We don't need match but we should show it, you guys are doing a lot of work and it shows you are really behind the project and that you are going to be there along the way.

6:45:48 PM – Larry Hogg, you talked about what the Economic Council gives, is there some guidelines for those? Adeanna Jenkins, I believe Commerce gives them some guidelines to look at. There's also different categories and sometimes they'll file this into their meetings and sometimes the Advisory Council will be concerned with specific information missing on a grant application, like the exact location someone wants to put a new Fire Station. They can weigh them heavier if they really like them, if they think they really make an improvement, or not if they don't think it's really necessary. I will find out who is in your Region that's on the Council and make sure they get your application. That would give them a month or so before Commerce would even send it to them.

6:47:15 PM – Layna Hafer, so the project that we're focusing on is the existing Playground in Memorial Park and I know the budget is not firm, but it would help me in decision making also to know, you said there's \$250,000.00. Adeanna Jenkins affirmed. Layna, so approximately how much of that does replacing the Playground use? Adeanna, let me explain the process. Once you are approved and clear the Environmental, then we will go ahead and prepare an RFP and we will send that out. This is going to be over \$150,000.00 so we are going to follow State procedures. We will get it posted in the newspaper so different companies can come and prepare a proposal. We aren't just looking for the cheapest, but does the equipment they are bringing in follow all of the standards and meet all the safety

standards, there's different elements like that. When you get those packages you can decide which company to go through, then choose which equipment you want. You are going to have \$225,000.00 for construction and \$25,000.00 is going to go to administration. You will have the \$225,000.00 plus the \$30,000.00 if we need to use it on the equipment. After the RFP, after you choose the company you will work with the company to get what you want. If you want to scale down, not a problem. I think we are constrained by the footprint is all. What we are getting right now is just a cost estimate because I have to show the full amount of the Grant. It will take the full amount of the Grant, plus the Blue Cross Grant, plus a little bit of City money.

6:50:05 PM – Larry Hogg, I'm familiar with a Commercial Real Estate transaction where environmental studies are some times required is that what we are talking about here? Adeanna Jenkins, no, everything is pretty much a desktop environmental. I do researches to make sure there are no red flags. If there were red flags we might have to dig a little deeper. Unless you know something about that Park that is concerning, I don't anticipate having any issues. There's a whole process, Commerce has these guidelines we have to go through, they are called Green Sheets. Larry, so you're talking about an internal process at your department primarily? Adeanna, yes and that's part of the administration fee. You guys will have to have a certified Grant Administrator and they have to be certified through the CUG Program. We have five people on staff who have that.

6:51:54 PM – Mayor Hibberd opened up the meeting for public comments.

IN FAVOR OF: None. **6:52:06 PM**

UNDECIDED: **6:52:18 PM**

6:52:24 PM - Christina Stanley, 440 W Idaho, Weiser ID. I'm hearing that this massive Play Structure will cost more than \$200,000.00 plus some. I hear a lot in the community about not enough for the teens to do. You brought that up with Ping Pong tables and Corn Holes, I know that the concrete Corn Hole set ups are about \$2,500.00 and the Ping Pongs are about \$5,000.00 through Stone Age in Oregon. Is there anyway to scale down the Playground portion of it so we can give the teens and older kids something to play with? Because we already have a Playground Structure at City Park and we really don't have a lot for the teens. My only concern is that it's all for the little's and those little's grow up and don't have anything to do and they cause problems. You also mentioned the ADA accessible restrooms, is that a requirement? Clerk McDaniel, they already are.

AGAINST: None. **6:53:42 PM**

HIS PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 6:53:51 PM

Randall Hibberd, Mayor

Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk