

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

November 14, 2022 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of Boone, Iowa, met in work session with the Boone Park Commission in the City Hall Auditorium on November 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Slight presiding. The following Council Members were present: Byrd, McGinn, Moorman, Williamson, and Ray. Absent: Stines and Hilpipre.

McGinn moved; Byrd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Moorman, Williamson, Ray, Byrd, and McGinn. Nays: none.

Mayor Slight opened the floor to discuss the location for the proposed Wellness Center within McHose Park with the Boone Park Commission. Mayor Slight also introduced Chad Houston with the Citizens Group, Nate Nerem with Boone Economic Growth, and Dan Culhane with the Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC).

Williamson stated that a facility is needed that benefits everyone in the community and that she wanted to discuss ideas, suggestions, and possibilities of all parties involved.

Amy Landas discussed finding a location that is visible to the outside public with a larger area of ground that would have the capability for expansion. Landas questioned what the long-term vision for the facility is and feels the north side of McHose Park is too small.

April Burch stated the feed-back that she has been receiving is that since we do not have a Recreation Director or program, we need to first figure out what the real needs of the community are so that we build the right facility. Burch also stated that residents are not comfortable using public funds right now and questioned the ratio between public funds and private funding.

Houston stated that fund raising will be part of the plan but the first step should be the Wellness Center itself, as we cannot do anything without the bond. Houston stated that a Recreation Director position helps a need, but that position will not be created before the bond date rolls around.

Nerem stated that the economic impact of a facility complex can also help pay for roads and infrastructure needs.

Robbins advised that he looked into J.B. McHose's probate file and will, which gave the land to the City of Boone with the only limitation being that it is used for public recreational purposes; so there is not anything that prohibits a Wellness Center from being built in McHose Park.

Skare explained that it is important to have a public and private funding partnership and that the AEDC would help with fund raising. Skare reminded everyone about the commitment from Fareway on the facility. Skare stated that it is hard to raise money for a project that does not yet exist.

Slight stated it is our job is to support our community and businesses and it comes down to what the community wants.

Skare advised that the plan for Fiscal Year 2024 is to budget for a Recreation Director position.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kim Majors, Deputy City Clerk

John Slight, Mayor