



Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Council Sets Nov. 5 as Date for Public Vote on Recreation Complex

The Boone City Council voted on Monday evening to move forward with a Nov. 5 referendum on a proposed recreation center.

Council members also approved and authorized a \$57,500 contract with ISG Inc., a Des Moines design and engineering firm, for pre-referendum services for the proposed Boone Community Recreation Complex.

At the March 4 council meeting, ISG architectural group leader Dana Pedersen shared the work of the 17-member citizen recreation complex committee. That committee was led by local businessman Chad Houston and its work was supplemented by professionals from ISG and their partners. Over the six months before the March meeting, ISG worked with the task force to develop recommendations based on data-informed decisions and community support and feedback. Those recommendations and other information are contained in a 128-page report.

The project's goals are to enhance the community's quality of life and create economic development opportunities and growth. A recreation complex would provide spaces for people of all ages and abilities to connect and engage in physical and social activities, and would provide equitable, affordable and accessible recreational opportunities to a diverse community. It would spur economic development by providing resources to attract and retain residents to live and work in Boone and provide spaces for tournaments and sports tourism to attract visitors.

For more details, Boone residents and other interested parties can access the full report at <https://isginc.sharefile.com/share/view/sc8dc4e73068b4e9faac20984162b03cd>

As city officials continue to address the community's housing needs to attract more residents and economic growth and broaden the tax base, the council passed resolutions approving applications from four groups – Prairie Place LLC, Lincoln Flats, LLC, Page Flats, LLC and Elite Gutters LLC – to the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Iowa Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program.

In other action, the council:

- Voted for a resolution approving and authorizing an agreement with the Boone Area Veterans Center, Inc. to demolish 807 Sixth St., to clear the way for the construction of a new gathering place proposed by three veterans organizations.
- Appointed and reappointed several commission and board members. Mike Pritchard was reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission through June 30, 2029 and Randy Schmitz was appointed to the commission, replacing Dan Gould, through June 30, 2029. Cathy Wetzeler and Mike MacDougall were reappointed to three-year terms on the Family Resource Center Governance Board through June 30, 2027 while Lacey Dreeszen was appointed to the same term to replace Jody Fox.
- Approved detailed plans, specifications, form of contract and an estimate of cost as prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. to replace the roofs on the city's water treatment plant and wastewater treatment facility.
- Passed a resolution approving the execution of a professional services agreement with Manatt's, Inc., to proceed with the Story Street/Downtown Mill and Overlay Project.

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