



Blue Ribbon Bond Committee

April 29, 2022 Minutes

The Blue Ribbon Bond Committee of the City of Abilene, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on April 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Basement Conference Room, City Hall, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas.

Committee Members Present:

Jay Hardaway, Chair
Thomas Murray
Regi McCabe Gossett
Sue Thomesen
Rosten Callerman
Lourdes Carter

Committee Members Absent:

Aida Pantoja

Staff Present:

Robert Hanna, City Manager
Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary
Mindy Patterson, Deputy City Manager
Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager
Mike Rains, Finance Director
Cande Flores, Fire Chief
Chris Gibson, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

The Blue Ribbon Bond Committee convened in a regular meeting and was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **Review of Council Recommended Bond Projects**
 - a. **Fire Station No. 9**
 - b. **GV Daniels Recreation Center**
 - c. **Cesar Chavez Recreation Center**
 - d. **Kirby Lake Trail Improvements**
 - e. **Animal Shelter**

City Manager Hanna gave a brief overview of what Council has asked of the Committee.

Mr. Hanna discussed the animal shelter first. The City is are partnering with All Kind Animal Initiative who is taking the lead on this project. A public/private partnership will likely be done for this and then the private sector will generate the rest of the funds. This item was added to this committee's agenda, just in case the fundraising comes up a bit short. This was Councilmember Shane Price's recommendation, not staff's.

Chief Flores spoke about Fire Station 9. He went over the proposed location that is already owned by the City, on Highway 707 near Beltway and the 707 Spur. He went over the need for the fire station. This station would be staffed by an additional crew, not taking away from Fire Station #8. He went over the run district for the stations near by and how they would be broken up incorporating the new station. He went over the bond proposal itself - at least 12,000 sq foot, 4 double sized bays, 8-10 bedrooms, offices. He went over the pricing for the project - \$557 per square foot comes to \$6,684,000 for construction, with design and engineering, furniture, fixture and equipment and a contingency fund all equal to \$7,684,000. The engine would be a separate cost not included, about \$690k and a brush truck for \$220k, but that is already funded through the apparatus fund. Personnel costs would equal to \$888,462 for 9 personnel, 12 would be \$1,184,616, also separately funded. Chief Flores answered questions from the committee. The Mutual Aid agreement with Taylor County was discussed. Annexation plans were discussed. Other future expansion plans were discussed.

Chris Gibson spoke about the three parks projects. He gave overview of the recreation centers, starting with GV Daniels and the various issues the center has, and the existing facility assessment. Cesar Chavez was next with its issues and existing facility assessment. Mr. Gibson went over the results of the 2020 Community Feedback Survey that indicated gymnasiums, indoor walking tracks, weights and cardio equipment, and aerobics studios were all indicated in the top wants. Social programming spaces were discussed, with the number one being an indoor playground. The survey indicated 81.2% that they would support a bond for these facilities. Mr. Gibson went over the proposal for the new GV Daniels Recreation Center and the Cesar Chavez Recreation Center. He presented the design of the buildings - a modern recreation facility. The cost for the facility itself would be \$12.5 million each, so \$25 million for both. The committee asked to see what programs and services are currently there as well as proposed, who utilizes them all, as well as projections for these new facilities at the next meeting.

Mr. Hanna spoke about a survey that was done previously and the reasoning that these two centers were chosen. The committee questioned if both could be demolished and one big one be built in the center. Mr. Hanna stated that due to the political and historical value, that is not possible.

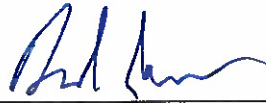
Mr. Gibson also talked about the Kirby Lake Trail proposal. He gave an overview of how the project came up, and the results of the community input survey, which indicated that the Kirby project had the highest responses. Hiking and biking was the top request, fishing was the next, followed by nature playscapes. 89.4% said they would support using tax dollars to do this. He talked about the housing and development growth in the area that spurs the need for this, and went over the proposed Kirby lake trail system. The committee questioned if we could consider making the main trail feel more like a hiking trail and not pave it, and if there is a plan to put in larger trees for sun protection. The community that likes to go muddying in the area was discussed and how that will be deterred and policed. They questioned if the gun range is supportive of this project. The cost of the project was broken down, with a subtotal of \$6,586,615.

Chair Hardaway questioned if there was any opposition from the YMCA or private gyms on the rec centers. Mr. Hanna has talked to the YMCA, they are interested in partnering but they don't want our facilities. He has heard the most friction from the private gym owners, so it's important to understand the difference between these facilities and gyms. There will have to be an education component to most of this. Chair Hardaway suggested if the committee has questions about what was presented today to submit them to Mr. Hanna and they would be tackled at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Hardaway adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

APPROVED



Mr. Jay Hardaway, Chairman