MINUTES
OF THE
KEENE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019

PRESENT: Aaron Moses, Cheryl Schram, Nick Chesney and Russ Ziegler
ABSENT: Ricky Stephens, Donnie Beeson and Roy Robinson

CALLED TO ORDER: Called the Regular meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

1. Discussion and possible action regarding an agreement with Jacob Martin for the Splash Pad, Park Master Plan and Grant possibilities.

Derek Turner updated the Board on the latest application date deadline is December 1st.

Cheryl Schram asked if the original master park plan was referenced when Elisa Carver Park was put in.

Derek Turner stated that he was not able to find it. The plan would need to be re-created anyway.

Russ Ziegler asked if the Board would have any trouble matching the funds.

Aaron Moses stated that if the matching fund is $500,000, the Board does not have that kind of money.

Cheryl Schram stated that at this point, we are not sure what we are going to apply for and whether a splash pad will be part of that. The full plan will show the splash pad, walking trail for the other park, the pavilion and bathrooms.

Derek Turner stated that the size of the splash pad will determine the amount.

Cheryl Schram added how the water is circulated and whether it is a pass-through system. Will this take us all the way to the application process?

Derek Turner stated yes. The total cost is $17,000.

Russ Ziegler asked who maintains the splash pad after its built.

Aaron Moses stated the City.

**Russ Ziegler made a motion to approve the proposal from Jacob Martin. Seconded by Nick Chesney.**

James Belz stated that he is opposed to the splash pad. This board talks about $500,000 like it’s not that much. A lot of Council is against this.

Nick Chesney explained the tax process of the A and B Board and that the money isn’t coming from the City. If there is no A and B Board the City doesn’t get that tax money.
James Belz stated that he was concerned about the money and the direction of the boards.

Russ Ziegler asked about other quality of life projects that citizens have talked about. These are public meetings that no one attends.

Cheryl Schram stated that the boards were created by the vote in the 90's. It's always been towards quality of life projects. It that is always what we have been told that the money can go to. Recently, before you were elected to office, Brian LaBorde stated that these funds can be used for other projects, but it must be taken to the voters with specific language. It can be diverted to roads. This money comes from sales tax not property tax. I am not opposed to some of the money if not all of it going to streets. However, over the years, these boards have worked hard to improve the City of Keene.

Russ Ziegler asked if other projects have been discussed.

Cheryl Schram stated that a pavilion has been discussed and would like to see it included in the plan.

Aaron Moses stated that we meet every month to discuss these items and what we can do for this city. The splash pad came up because it is a major project and for other cities it gets used a lot and brings in outside traffic too which may stop and eat or shop here.

James Belz stated that he is against the splash pad. It was said earlier that the City will maintain it. Public Works is already overwhelmed. What about the water usage? The City must spend $200,000 on the City's water system. James Belz continued with a lot of the City's debt and the infrastructure that needs to be repaired and rebuilt. Also, there are citizens that don't want people coming into the town. They don't want outsiders.

Russ Ziegler gave an example that he took his family to a splash pad in another city and while there we ate lunch. That is what we are trying to do here. We go out of town every weekend for entertainment and we go to Joshua to swim at the YMCA. We either grow as a city or die as a city.

Cheryl Schram stated that the quality of life can also be defined as not having potholes throughout the City. We have talked to lots of people who want this, and you have talked to people who say they don't. It looks like the answer is based on the demographic of who you are speaking to.

The motion carried unanimously, 4-0-0.

2. Adjournment.

Board adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Ricky Stephens, President

Holly Owens, City Secretary, TRMC