

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SANDPOINT CITY COUNCIL
October 16, 2019

I. OPENING

Mayor Rognstad called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, in the Council chambers at City Hall, 1123 Lake Street.

ROLL CALL: Council members Ruehle, Aitken, Aispuro, Darling, Williamson and Eddy were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Rognstad led Council and the public in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A. PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during Public Forum.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rognstad recognized Will Herrington, who has served under contract as the Sandpoint City Attorney for the past several months. He previously served as Sandpoint City Attorney until 2010 and was the Sandpoint Planning Director from 2003 to 2008. This is Mr. Herrington's last meeting as our City Attorney. He has given his heart and soul to this city, has become a trusted confidant, and his work and efforts on the City's behalf are very much appreciated.

Mayor Rognstad recalled that Sandpoint resident and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) member Molly O'Reilly spoke before Council last meeting and was concerned that PBAC was not meeting regularly, as is required by City Code. She was also concerned about the lack of bicycle connection that seemed to be absent from GreenPlay's proposed concept. After discussions with her and staff, the Mayor has directed PBAC to meet in November and take up the issue surrounding the connector and the apparent missing link between the bicycle path adjacent to the Panida Theater and the pedestrian bridge on Bridge Street behind Gunning's alley along Sand Creek. He has asked PBAC to review and consider other potential enhancements to that connection and possibly use that property to accommodate the same mobility in a different way. He thanked Ms. O'Reilly for bringing this to his attention.

A review of the City's citizen advisory committees and commissions was an item identified in Council's Strategic Plan as an area that needed to be refreshed. Staff has been directed to examine City Code in relation to the committees and commissions and return to City Council by the second meeting in January with some recommendations as to how the City can create better engagement and more diverse participation on the committees and ensure the City is embracing modern technology to the greatest extent possible, allowing us to achieve that broader-based engagement and ensure that the agendas and projects considered by the committees are driven by the City's elected officials and staff. Going forward, the Mayor wants those concerned to be aware that there will be analysis of this issue and proposed improvements announced in January.

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II. OLD BUSINESS

C. APPROVE WAR MEMORIAL FIELD DESIGN CONCEPT AND AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton announced that she and Parks and Recreation Director Kim Woodruff would be providing a background and overview presentation on this matter. Tom Diehl from GreenPlay, LLC, will be participating by Skype. Bill LaRue and Stan Griswold from Bernardo Wills Architects were also present.

Mr. Diehl and his team from GreenPlay and Dell Hatch from Bernardo Wills Architects, who was the landscape architect on the project, provided a comprehensive presentation that included proposed conceptual designs for several of the City's parks and recreational facilities during the last Council meeting on October 2. This evening's presentation will be focused on War Memorial Field.

Initial Concept and Conceptual Site Plan

The concept for War Memorial Field included the sports fields within the complex, along with the parking lot, the boat launch and improved parking for the boat launch, improved restrooms, drinking facilities, improvements to not only the boat ramp but also the docks on either side, contemplated a waterfront access area, and a dog park. This evening, Council will consider whether to accept this design and direct staff to issue an RFQ for construction engineering. For this particular phase, that would include this revised concept, which delves further into field designs, elevations, survey data, and geotechnical data to further refine a parking concept. It should be noted that this is still a concept and will be further vetted, but this will be the overall concept for purposes of engineering.

This design concept contemplates an artificial field surface. Included in the meeting packet is a 2015 analysis and initial design from SPVV Architects. At that time, the City had begun discussing field surface, and a final report was produced after a fairly robust public involvement process and the Turf Advisory Committee reviewing all forms of turf. The final report was presented to Council in 2017, then discussion on field design was paused as Council's Strategic Plan was adopted, seeking a master planning process for parks and recreation and to consider overall design of War Memorial Field and how it would fit within the entire parks system.

Field Considerations 2015 - Present

- Sand-based Natural Turf
- Artificial/Natural Hybrid Turf
- Partial Artificial Turf/Remainder Natural
- Field Improvements at Sports Complex
- War Memorial Field Design Plan
 - Recommendation: Artificial Field Surface

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There is consensus from those who use the City's sports fields that War Memorial Field has the worst playing conditions and is the least safe. The field at Great Northern Park tends to offer the best playing conditions.

The recommendation from GreenPlay, as presented at community meetings held in the last two weeks and during focus groups, has been this design, which incorporates an artificial field.

Key Factors Considered

- PLAYABILITY AND FIELD USE
- Neighborhood Impact
- Festival Needs
- Compatibility/Timeless between Usage Types
- Environmental Impacts

Playability and field use are a top priority, and GreenPlay recommends artificial turf in order to maximize playability and field use at Memorial Field.

With any form of field surface, there is a significant drainage system that will need to be installed. This will prohibit vehicles from driving on the field, which has traditionally been part of the practice when setting up and dismantling The Festival. Under any turf option chosen, this will no longer be an option, although Tom Sherry with SPVV Landscape Architects, who was an initial consultant for the City, suggested options for vehicle traffic on an artificial surface by use of planks or other similar methods.

Research is underway to address anchoring options for The Festival tent. The design anticipates three different playing fields: softball, which is new to Memorial Field, baseball, and football/lacrosse/soccer. With the way those fields are laid across from one another, anchors in the ground would end up within the field of play and potentially pose a safety risk to the kids playing on the field. Mr. Woodruff reported that he spoke with the company that built The Festival tent, and they have assured that a surface anchor can be used, although the size of the anchor would need to be determined to ensure it could handle the weight. The Festival tent, its shape and design, is iconic. It may be possible to work with the tent company to come up with a similar design, only with a different anchor system. They indicated that they've been approached by other customers about how to use their tent structure on artificial turf. Ms. Stapleton added that this has been contemplated and included in the overall budget for the project.

Transitioning from The Festival to the fall sports schedule can be a challenge on the field. GreenPlay has advised that, for adequate recovery of the surface and to ensure we do not end up back in the situation we're in now, 2-3 weeks recovery on a grass field is simply incompatible with these uses, which is the basis for their recommendation for a synthetic field surface. Mr. Diehl added that, with a new grass field, it would be nice for the first year, but, particularly after a large event like The Festival, after the second or third year, it would be necessary to resurface the field, there would be compaction, and there would

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be damage to the irrigation; we'd be right back to where we are now in a short period of time. With a synthetic surface, we would not have to address a resurface for eight to ten years, typically.

Maintaining an appropriately-draining sand-based natural field surface requires significantly more fertilizer than is currently used, along with irrigation on the fields, both lake-fed irrigation and the addition of potable water irrigation. The magnitude of cost proposal from Mr. Sherry at SPVV, included in the materials from 2015, was an estimate of \$100,000 for a specialized treatment filtering system just to address the need to pull the nutrients out from the stormwater runoff from a natural surface field before it enters the river. We did not update, nor did we ask the consultants to update, this estimate in today's dollars or based on their design recommendation.

Specific Artificial Turf Concerns

- Perceived Toxicity of Infill Material
 - SPVV Report noted: The concern included a perception that rubberized infill material is linked to a series of cancers in soccer players. A study completed by the Washington State Department of Health concluded, however, that the incidence of cancer in some soccer players who played on rubber-infilled soccer fields was actually lower than the regular population, and could find no link whatsoever between the use of rubber infill and adverse health effects. - An organic field was nonetheless recommended.

- Retained & Radiated Heat on Artificial Turf
 - Artificial turf surfaces may be up to 22 degrees warmer mid-afternoon on a hot day
 - Air temperatures 2' above artificial turf may be 7 degrees warmer
 - Temperatures 5' above artificial turf may be 2 degrees warmer
 - Temperatures after 3 p.m. in all cases dropped as the solar gain decreased

Type of Artificial Turf not Determined

- Synthetic Field & Rubber/Sand In-Fill
- Synthetic Field & Polymer Coated (Coolplay System)/Sand In-Fill
- Synthetic Field & Coconut/Sand In-Fill with Shock Pad
- Cork & Olive In-Fill also considered

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| Consideration | Natural Grass Field | Synthetic Turf Field |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated Installation Cost | \$7 - \$10 per SF | \$7 - \$15 per SF |
| Irrigation | required | not required |
| Drainage | restricts playability | doesn't restrict playability |
| Maintenance | more labor intensive | less labor intensive |
| | requires annual reseeding | |
| | requires weekly mowing | requires weekly sweeping |
| Field Markings | temporary | permanent |
| | requires weekly repainting of the lines | |
| Playability | limited | unlimited |
| Special Events | Special Events cause significant damage to natural grass fields | Special Events don't typically cause significant damage to synthetic turf fields |
| Weather | can limit use | not affected |
| Environment | provides oxygen | no water or chemical applications |
| Life Expectancy | requires regular periods of non-use | does not require periods on non-use |
| | requires renovation/replacement every two - three years depending on types of | replace top surface every 8-10 years replace subsurface every 16 - 20 years |
| Annual Maintenance Costs | Typically 1.5 times the cost of synthetic turf | Typically .66 the cost of natural grass |
| Replacement Costs over a 10 Year Cycle (2019 costs) | \$ 907,200 replacing only the football field surface twice over ten years | \$ 696,437 replacing the entire synthetic turf field at Memorial Field (football, baseball, and softball) once at the conclusion of ten years |
| Health Concerns | use of herbicides and fertilizer | concerns regarding materials used |

Ms. Stapleton noted that synthetic turf costs more up front for installation. Over the long term, however, with natural turf replacement costs and maintenance needs, based on GreenPlay's review, costs are higher for a grass field. Mr. Diehl added that maintaining a natural grass field to athletic field standards would be more than what we are currently doing, so that would result in increased costs. It's difficult to compare the grass field with synthetic turf, as grass can take only so many practices and games before it needs rest and rehabilitation. Synthetic turf is not affected by usage or weather. A natural grass field is not conducive to the volume and frequency of activities we are attempting to undertake on War Memorial Field.

Ms. Stapleton recalled that, in SPVV's report from 2017, there is information regarding usage hours by different activities on War Memorial Field. Users were surveyed on hours they're actually able to use the field and how often they would use the field if there were no limitations, with results that demonstrated fairly significant differences.

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Planning for M&O

| | Ordinance 1323 5% Parks Capital | Field Replacement Reserve | Undetermined |
|------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2017 | 16,171 | | |
| 2018 | 16,171 | 27,096 | |
| 2019 | 16,171 | 27,096 | |
| 2020 | 16,171 | 27,096 | 32,000 |
| | 64,684 | 81,288 | |

War Memorial Field Schedule

| ACTIVITY | TIMELINE/DEADLINE |
|--|----------------------|
| Collect baseline data/site survey/geotechnical information | Underway |
| RFQ for Engineering Services | 10/17/2019 |
| Select & approve engineer | 11/20/2019 |
| Design period | 11/20/19 – 2/1/20 |
| Construction Bid Period | 2/2/20 – 3/10/20 |
| Selection of Contractor – Council | 3/18/20 |
| Phase I Construction Period | 4/1/2020 – 7/31/2020 |

Original Estimate:
Design (90 working days)
Construction (60 working days)

There have been several discussions with The Festival Board about timing of the 2020 Festival, anticipating the first weekend in August, with advance time for setup beginning August 1. The parking lot will be addressed in the fall after The Festival and boating season. Ms. Stapleton recalled that the grandstands reconstruction project was also accomplished on a tight timeline. The decision this evening is not whether to move forward with construction, and we are not held to the proposed schedule. For example, when we go out to bid, if bids come back high, there are not enough bidders, we don't have a final construction design, or costs just seem high, we'll simply hold off until the next year. There are several "safe-outs" along the way if we run into issues.

Mr. Woodruff recollected that we as a community came together five years ago and

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passed the 1% tax with 73% voter approval. He realized at the time that determining the type of field surface would be an issue. In the 33 years he's been working in Parks and Recreation, Sandpoint fields in the spring are not playable. Many attempts at solutions have been made without success; our soils are simply not compatible. As it stands now, during the spring sports season, thousands of kids are playing in gyms and parking lots. It's not going to be possible to overcome this challenge. It's not an issue in other cities, like Bonners Ferry and Coeur d'Alene, where there are different soils than we have here in Sandpoint. There are many who prefer the natural surface, including supporters of The Festival at Sandpoint. The Festival is a great partner. It's because of them that we unified as a community and passed the 1% tax. He asked those who support The Festival to please consider supporting the artificial turf for the eight concerts held on the field for a few days each summer in exchange for the possibility of thousands of kids having the opportunity to use this space throughout the year. Currently, we do not have the space for the kids. With artificial turf, we can move the snow off early and play. Renovation of the parking lot can minimize impact on the neighborhood. We can modify the lighting and move the parking lot and lessen the impact on the neighborhood. We have the opportunity and we have the money to make this happen. It may not be the perfect scenario for or desire of The Festival, but we can work toward a solution for both sports and The Festival. We're a small community, and there are many kids who need all the opportunities they can get to play outside. We need to make this a priority as a community, and this includes our other parks and facilities, as well. He urged those who are supporters of natural turf to consider the possibilities with an artificial turf field.

Mr. Woodruff replied to **Mayor Rognstad** that it is the official recommendation of City staff to accept GreenPlay's design for War Memorial Field, which includes a synthetic field surface.

Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that a hybrid option is not considered with this design concept, as the design is based on a synthetic field surface; it's the only way the design will work, overlapping football/soccer/lacrosse, softball and baseball. In this design, with the way the fields are situated and parking is incorporated, the field has to be a flat surface. A grass field requires a pitch; it must be crowned. The design requires a flat field surface, and that is achieved with synthetic turf.

Mr. Woodruff responded to **Councilman Aitken** that, with synthetic turf, games will still be scheduled one at a time, but practices could be held back to back, and several teams could practice at one time. Currently, there are zero practices held at Memorial Field, and the number of games is limited because of the damage that is caused to the grass. Some of the money needed for maintenance and eventual field replacement will come from users, but tournaments and fundraisers are also possibilities. **Councilman Aitken** was skeptical as to the amount of revenue that could be generated by hosting a tournament.

Mr. Diehl stated that the overlap of the fields is 10%. A natural grass football/lacrosse field would have to be crowned in the center and sloped down the sides. In the outfield for softball or baseball, this results in the players going up or down hill, and that is not safe. With synthetic turf, players could be on the field in February or March. The weather

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wouldn't be a factor. There would need to be a decision for games as to which sport will play, one at a time, but, with practices, it's just a matter of scheduling with the coaches. As it stands now, there are no practices at all. Synthetic turf on this field is like having three fields available at all times during the day. And on the weekends, revenue could be generated in multiple different ways. Some communities do charge for field use, and some host tournaments. Currently and historically, the field accommodates maybe six football games per year, maybe some soccer and some baseball, but no softball and very little lacrosse. Baseball teams can't get on the field until late April, and they have very few games. With synthetic turf, they could be practicing all the time; instead of just one field, it's multiple fields. With a grass field, we would need a football field, a baseball field, and a softball field. With synthetic turf, multiple activities can be taking place on the field, and practices and games can be scheduled back to back.

Ms. Stapleton reported that, in the past, we've allocated around \$20,000 per year for field maintenance. The estimated cost for replacement of synthetic turf is \$700,000 every ten years. In anticipation, we've been setting aside about \$45,000 per year. Mr. Diehl explained that synthetic turf manufacturers recommend replacement every ten years, but it's possible to get more than ten years' use out of the surface. With a grass field, replacement is required every two to three years, most likely along with the drainage system. Grass also requires mowing and maintenance. **Councilman Darling** observed that, annually, it appears we've been saving about half of what it's going to cost for replacement. Ms. Stapleton explained that we have a delta of about \$32,000 per year.

Councilwoman Williamson wondered about maintenance and vacuuming/cleaning of the artificial turf that will be required after Festival, as has been discussed previously. She did not see those costs reflected in the chart. Additionally, she is concerned about how policy will be adjusted to determine who will be able to use the field. There has been a great deal of advocacy on behalf of the various sports. Playability will be increased dramatically, and she would like to better understand the implications and how policy will address this. She understands the support for artificial turf from the sports teams, but, in trying to make the best informed decision, she would like to know how we will attempt to ensure an equitable situation for all these teams. With an artificial surface, everyone will want to use it for practice and play, and we already struggle with scheduling across the City in terms of all of our playing surfaces. It's an important consideration when we're making a potential major change to Memorial Field. Mr. Woodruff replied that we are going to work to serve as many kids as we can. **Councilwoman Williamson** clarified that she's asking about the additional cost to clean and maintain the artificial surface after a major event. She would like to see some "fully loaded" cost estimates. Mr. Diehl replied that the City would contract with a turf maintenance company for services throughout the year, bearing in mind that a major cleaning would cost several thousand dollars, not tens of thousands of dollars, and it's needed only after a large event like The Festival; it is not needed after a typical event. The cost to clean is substantially less than the cost to resurface and repair grass. Ms. Stapleton added that sod is replaced currently after The Festival, and they have contributed annually to the cost to replace sections of sod, but the City has also been incurring costs over the years for additional replacement when the sod doesn't take. One of the challenges is that large portions of the sod is replaced, then

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we're turning around and immediately having football games. When we get to the end of the season, the roots have not had a chance to develop, so we're having to replace the sod again. We conducted an analysis and determined that we're spending over \$4,000 in fertilizer currently, where the cost for cleaning might \$1,000 to \$2,000. Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that, in 2015, SPVV estimated a stormwater treatment system at \$100,000.

Councilman Darling wondered about high school participation and usage and how many more high school sports would end up utilizing the field compared to current use. As it stands now, only a few sports use the field as their primary home field. Mr. Woodruff responded that this would be an excellent opportunity to work with the schools and allow other teams to come and play. With the new field design, they would have that opportunity, where, currently, they do not. Right now, the field is unusable; it gets torn up and muddy after only one game. **Councilman Darling** stated that his chief concern is whether the high school will be able to afford to use the field. Will user fees be too expensive? Mr. Woodruff replied that the City and Lake Pend Oreille School District have enjoyed an excellent partnership, with the City providing many of the outdoor venues for the District. He is confident that the School District will continue to partner with the City to ensure success of the new field. The High School has not had to build a varsity stadium; the City has taken that on, and we work together with the resources we have. Ms. Stapleton added that staff has had conversations with the District Superintendent about the field, including opportunities for more sports activity. The District understands and will take this into consideration when devising their budget, but, in these conversations, there has not been discussion about increasing fees. There is money in the City's Parks Capital Fund above and beyond what is being allocated to Memorial Field. As we go through the Parks and Recreation master planning process, we will review all the various revenue sources and determine how we want to allocate and prioritize those and reserve them for maintenance and operations costs moving forward. The SPVV report included an analysis of the number of hours user groups at the time were using the field and what their actual desired field use would be if they were able to use the field more often. During discussions with the user groups, it was an issue of field availability, the ability to use the field surface, the restrictions, and whether they could even have a game-playing surface. Practices, for instance, are completely restricted from Memorial Field. There had also been discussions about desired hours, and that would be one of the issues we would need to discuss, as far as parameters on the number of hours the field would be available.

Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilman Aitken** that High School graduation and baseball would be disrupted if construction ensues in 2020. Staff has had discussions with The Festival as they develop their schedule, about the timeline and their need for access to the field. We've had discussions with the School District about graduation and the impact to spring sports. Our first consultant, SPVV, also similarly proposed a spring construction schedule, nearly identical to what is being proposed at this time. The only difference in the schedule was the amount of design time. The grandstands construction disrupted fall sports, displacing an entire season of high school football, and we made a commitment that wouldn't happen again. SPVV had anticipated a 60-day construction timeline. This latest schedule accommodates for more than 60 days.

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Mr. Woodruff replied to **Councilman Aitken** that various options are being explored for The Festival tent and anchors but that the existing tent can be anchored to the surface. The anchor system won't be exactly the same; we can't drive poles into the turf. There is \$18,000 in the budget for anchors for The Festival tent. Ms. Stapleton added that there are other accommodations, and that is a difference in design.

Mr. Woodruff confirmed for **Councilwoman Ruehle** that the War Memorial itself is sacred and will be preserved.

Ms. Stapleton showed where the tour buses could be situated for The Festival, next to the baseball bullpens, where there will be accommodations made for the buses. The design limits, to the maximum extent possible, the distance between the parking lot and the Festival tent. Mr. Griswold estimated the distance from the tour bus area to the stage at approximately 160 feet.

Ms. Stapleton confirmed for **Councilman Eddy** that, with the proposed construction timeline, there will be an impact on users for spring and summer. GreenPlay did not consider construction timelines for different surfaces, because the design concept they've presented only works with artificial turf. Previously, when we were comparing natural grass field with synthetic turf, the timeline was longer for a grass surface. Mr. Diehl added that grow time for grass would be several months.

Mr. Diehl replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that recommending synthetic turf at the Travers/Great Northern Sports Complex would allow for early spring play and play throughout spring, summer, fall, with multiple uses. Currently, the fields are unusable. The softball diamonds could be used for practices. The plan is to maintain a natural grass surface for the baseball field. He stated that they heard the need for more playable fields, and that is what they are trying to address. **Councilwoman Williamson** added that she is trying to put into context the areas where it would be beneficial to have artificial turf at our Sports Complex so that we are not having this conversation in a vacuum as an all-or-nothing situation with one particular field. She does not believe there will be any resolution at this time around policy and terms of who gets to play where, but she believes that is something that will be important to consider as we move forward, because there will be more demand than there are available surfaces. Whether they are artificial or natural, that part of the conversation is going to get tricky as we contemplate a decision.

Mayor Rognstad stated: "What is before us tonight is a design concept for Memorial Field that includes many elements. I suspect that many of you are here on the turf element of the design. It's something we've discussed for years but have not yet come to a conclusion. The design concept presented tonight is for an artificial turf surface, but there may be some who would prefer to see the natural turf."

Several in attendance completed the sign-up form to speak on this matter.

Bob Witte stated that he would be speaking on behalf of The Festival. They are in favor

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of natural turf. They take great pride in the field. When people come from out of town and see what we have, that Sandpoint is a natural town, a synthetic field would take away from the aesthetics of having The Festival right on the lake. Travers Park and other parks could have a synthetic field for all sports, but there should be a natural grass field at Memorial. If Council does make the decision to install artificial turf at Memorial, The Festival is willing to give it a try. It's an unknown. It could turn out to be fine. Everyone would be happy, and we would go on as usual, or it will turn out that The Festival will need to be held elsewhere. There will be unknown costs, and it will have to be determined who will absorb those costs. The musical acts who perform at The Festival are expensive. This is normally the time of year they are looking for acts, and they want to have them nailed down by Thanksgiving or Christmas. They are about a month behind already and cannot proceed with booking. They need a commitment from the City that the field will be ready by Festival time. They book acts now and, generally, by spring, they have to pay a 50% deposit, which is hundreds of thousands of dollars. If there are delays or unknown problems, someone will have to absorb that outlay, as it is not refundable. Decisions will need to be made soon. With so many in attendance, in the interest of time and in an attempt to prevent repetitious remarks, **Mayor Rognstad** asked, by a show of hands, who was in agreement with Mr. Witte's comments, and 28 members of the audience raised their hands in agreement.

(After each speaker, Mayor Rognstad, asked whether anyone had anything different to add that had not already been relayed, and, after each speaker, he asked, by a show of hands, who was in agreement with the speaker's comments. That number is indicated at the end of each speaker's statement, below.)

Ann Neal stated that she lives less than a block from Memorial Field and is not in favor of thousands of children practicing there from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., but the main reason she came tonight is because of the environment and the devastating harmful effects that rubber has on the health of children. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the results of a study in July of this year. There was also a study pages and pages long in 2017 describing the potential harmful effects of rubber and polyethylene artificial turf and concerns regarding chromium, lead, and arsenic. If there is any possibility that our children will be harmed in any way by the application of this kind of turf, we should absolutely vote no. (23 in agreement)

Chris Bessler, who is not a City resident but operates a business in the City, commented that this has been a good process, but the final plans have been available for only a couple of weeks, which he believes is insufficient. This is a significant change in use. This change might not destroy The Festival, but it will diminish the experience of The Festival and tilt much more toward accommodating athletic events. He'd like to know more about the different types of turf that are available and believes this issue should be considered at a regional level. Artificial turf is proposed for some of the fields at the Sports Complex. The Field of Dreams is proposed in Ponderay, where artificial turf could potentially be used. There are other venues where some of those uses could be accommodated. It seems there are a lot of questions yet to be answered. Pushing this back a year and providing additional time for comment and for people to digest this information wouldn't

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be a problem. We should not be in a hurry. (33 in agreement)

Kate McAlister, City resident and Executive Director of the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, stated that she has been asked to represent the Chamber member businesses, whose major concern is whether this causes harm to The Festival. This is an almost \$2 million economic boon to our community each year, and there are businesses that really rely on this event. The first weekend would probably be okay, but the second weekend families are getting their kids ready for school. These are two different spending groups. The Festival attendees, for the most part, have more disposable income than parents of kids participating in tournaments. She has grandkids who play; it costs a lot of money to put your kids in sports. Their income-spend is not going to be as much as those who attend The Festival. She's concerned businesses might have to close, and that's a trickle-down effect. Employees would be lost, and then they wouldn't be able to make purchases, and it would spiral. She is concerned about The Festival, and she's concerned the timeline is too tight. She heard that, at the first public meeting, people overwhelmingly said they wanted grass. At the meeting held at the Panida, it was 50/50. Overwhelming, the response has been "grass." Out of 142 responses on Facebook, only 7 wanted artificial turf, and that was from a very eclectic group. It feels like we're hurrying. There's talk in the community that this was a foregone conclusion, which is why many people didn't show up, thinking that Council had already made up its mind. She is here to represent the businesses; they're concerned about the loss of The Festival. She wonders whether Council has any ideas about how to make up that revenue if it were to go away. (30 in agreement)

Christian Schwab, City resident, had the following questions: When it's time to replace the turf, if Sandpoint doesn't have the funds, would it become dangerous from tears or rips? Since we do have problems coming up for maintenance funding, how much would it require in taxes to pay for replacement? Why can't eyelets be installed in order to continue to use the Festival tent's four-foot spikes that have been working great? Why reinvent the wheel? Since the design seems to push everyone toward the parking lot, will there be an entrance at that location? (13 in agreement)

Woody Sherwood, City resident, stated that we may be underestimating the iconic value of Memorial Field. The field should be improved but should remain grass. He recommends using artificial turf elsewhere as a first installation to determine how it works for scheduling and whether it's really used before making a decision whether to install it at Memorial Field. Enhanced use will exacerbate the traffic and parking problems already present around Memorial Field and result in impacts to the neighborhood. (no vote)

Fred Darnell read letters from himself and other Memorial Field area neighbors Sean and Gayle Harding, Ray and Kris Carter, and Bill and Sally Transue, who requested that the vote be delayed while more detailed information can be presented and workshops with the surrounding neighbors can be held. They suggested door hangers in order to inform them of any future meetings. (33 in agreement)

Steve Koste lives on Euclid Ave. around the corner from the field. He and his neighbors

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support natural turf. Turning Memorial Field into a sports complex is only going to add to the already existing traffic problems. He is in support of hometown sports but he and his neighbors do not support sports tournaments in the neighborhood. (30 in agreement)

Steve Youngdahl, City resident, stated that he was on the school board when both the first and second tax measures were proposed and when the second was approved. The first failed. On the heels of a failure, 73% voted in favor the second time, due in large part to the School District and the Bulldog Nation. He has followed this process carefully, and GreenPlay has done some amazing work. He has been surprised as to the depth of their experience. They have given their recommendations, and he appreciates the addition of a softball field and the consideration to girls' sports. He voiced his appreciation for Mr. Woodruff's work over the years. The City's formal survey has provided ample input from the community. Memorial Field has been in place for the kids since 1928, and the neighborhood has grown up around it. He urged Council to take GreenPlay's recommendation. (25 were in agreement)

Chase Tigert, Sandpoint High School head baseball coach, spoke in support of synthetic turf. He believes it will offer an amazing opportunity for student athletes. Right now, they are limited to practicing inside a gym. It's challenging. There is not even enough space to throw from first to third base, and this environment isn't conducive to baseball. Synthetic turf will be an asset for student athletes. He appreciates those who spoke in favor of a grass field; there were many valid points made. The community needs to come together and determine the best situation for everyone, as there is a wide diversity of opinion. (27 in agreement)

Jacob Iverson is not a City resident, but he is a youth coach and mentor in Sandpoint and has been a sports official for over 20 years, from youth to collegiate. He's had positive experiences with artificial turf and is a strong proponent. People love to come into town and go to Memorial Field. Other clubs will come to Sandpoint to rent the field. He is a traveling sports parent, and he does have disposable income to spend in the communities where his children play. We could attract state tournaments and generate revenue. The kids have a positive contribution to make to the community. A better multi-use facility may result in better retention of student athletes. The fields are busy, and that is a challenge, but our community is growing. We need to plan ahead to ensure success for years to come. He encourages Council to vote for artificial turf. (26 in agreement)

Jeff Johnson is not a City resident, but he represents the 300 boys and girls who play in Sandpoint Little League. Currently, there are no opportunities for girls to play softball. The old lights at Memorial Field weren't good, but they were cheap. The new lights are good, but they're expensive. Teams can't afford it. Soccer and American Legion said they'd play 4 hours a day for 189 days. Legion said they'd play a double-header every day of their season. If synthetic turf is installed, Little League has a plan to propose "Saturdays at Memorial". Currently, they play in the mud. Coach Tigert went to Boise at significant cost just to get some games in. The field was set up for the youth of Sandpoint; they're not going to be there late at night. 90% of the damage done to the field has been done by The Festival. He knows about compaction, working on baseball fields over the years.

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Artificial turf is the answer. (27 in agreement)

Amelia Boyd, City resident, noted that this has been discussed for a number of years, since 2015, at public forums, discussion groups, and meetings. It's time to make a decision and get something done with the field. 73% of voters approved changes to Memorial Field, and the improvements so far have been for The Festival, for adults. Give the kids a chance now. Let's improve the field for the kids. Personally, she would prefer traffic from children and families, as opposed to intoxicated Festival goers. She is a proponent of artificial turf and requests that Council take action. (33 in agreement)

Susan Austin has been a resident of Sandpoint for 50 years. If the field ends up getting used more than it is now, there will be impacts to the neighborhood. There have been many opportunities to give input. GreenPlay has provided many presentations and opportunities. It's been discussed. She has encouraged neighbors to attend, but they don't attend. She isn't necessarily in favor of extra traffic, but synthetic turf appears to be the best option. (32 in agreement)

Cari House, not a City resident, provided written comments as follows: "It is my sincere belief that Memorial Field should remain a natural turf. A new natural turf would provide increased playability and the continued existence of The Festival at Sandpoint, which has a huge economic impact on our community each season."

Marilyn Sabella, City resident, provided written comments as follows: "I am adamantly opposed to installing artificial turf at Memorial Field. If it is necessary, install it at Great Northern and Centennial Fields."

Julie McCallan, City resident, provided written comments as follows: "I am writing to voice my opposition to the artificial turf that is being considered for Memorial Field. The toxicity of the rubber turf concerns me, especially for our youth who will be playing on it. Covering one more large swath of land with an artificial surface also concerns me; we already have lots of paved parking lots, streets, etc. What is the affect on the earth and on our lake of the potentially toxic substance of the artificial turf? I am also concerned that the field will be limited to only sports use. Will the field be able to be used for other purposes, like the Festival at Sandpoint, Shakespeare in the Park, the High School Graduation, if there is an artificial turf? Given the other uses of the field, it seems a one-sided, expensive decision to put in an artificial turf and to limit its use to only a playing field, if that is the case. I know a more expensive cork surface is also being considered. While I would prefer that option from the perspective of toxicity, I still advocate for a grass surface. Given our snowy winters, the artificial turf would only extend the playing season by a few weeks in both spring and fall. Why go to all of this expense for sports, when there are more pressing issues for the city to address like the lack of continuous sidewalks. I urge the council to vote no on the artificial turf. Thank you for considering my concerns."

Mo Dunkel stated that he has been a resident of the City for 43 years. He served on the Turf Advisory Committee and has reviewed all of the options and costs. He believes there has been fair representation of the community from different user groups. His opinion is

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that artificial turf offers the best option for all user groups. All concerns about health issues or cost or The Festival have been satisfactorily addressed. He was originally on the fence. He's coached many games on artificial turf. With conditions and the climate and the seasons, without artificial turf, we are not going to have the best capacity. The Festival has something to gain with synthetic turf in that they would no longer feel that they are damaging the surface for other user groups. He has four football games scheduled for this Saturday, but with rain coming, they may have to cancel games midgame because surface conditions will be too poor to play. War Memorial Field is an iconic location. He has had experiences there as both a player and a coach. It's a big decision, and we need the right decision now. From his perspective, an artificial surface will be the best solution for all user groups. (29 in agreement)

Star Jensen, City resident, observed that we are focusing on Memorial Field. She would like to see more integration of other fields in the community and plans for development of those fields. Do they have same restrictions due to surface issues? We need a bigger picture understanding for all different locations. What turf options are considered for Travers Park or the proposed Field of Dreams in Ponderay? She is also concerned about disposal of the artificial turf. Is it recyclable? (24 in agreement)

Councilman Darling moved to approve the proposed War Memorial Field Design Concept and to authorize a Request for Quotes for professional engineering services. **Councilman Eddy seconded the motion.**

Councilman Eddy believes there were valid points made by everyone who spoke this evening, and he appreciates the input. Issuing the RFQ will provide an opportunity to gather more information. We're not committed until we accept a quote and move forward. This will provide more time to gather more information and look into the matter more deeply. He believes that artificial turf is the best option for this facility.

Councilman Darling agrees that we do have some time for more public outreach before a final decision to move forward. 73% of voters approved field improvements, and there is 100% staff recommendation for artificial turf. We need to practice fiscal responsibility. Mr. Woodruff responded that the consultants' work did not take a specific position as to what would be best for The Festival; it looked at the overall community. Mr. Diehl added that they looked at the overall best solution to meet all needs, not exclusive to The Festival or to sports. This solution allows athletics and The Festival to exist on that space in a short period of time. It doesn't prevent anyone from continuing.

Ms. Stapleton responded to **Councilman Aispuro** that, if Council chooses to accept this design, staff will issue an RFQ for preliminary engineering, then come back to Council to award. Mr. Woodruff confirmed that a vote in the affirmative on the design this evening is a vote for artificial turf. Ms. Stapleton reiterated that the design concept up for vote this evening anticipates artificial turf. However, there will be time for discussion as to the type of artificial turf, and there will be time to review timelines and to reschedule for another season if the work cannot be completed in time for The Festival. **Mayor Rognstad** added that, also, if bids come in too high, we can deny all bids and go out to bid again a year

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from now.

Councilman Aispuro stated that the public saw the final design only a week ago. He believes it would be responsible to wait and look into the matter further. He is a business owner and an athlete. He is concerned about the perception of preconceived ideas as to a decision by Council. He wants to go on record as saying that is not the case for him.

Councilman Aitken stated that he agrees with **Councilman Aispuro** and is concerned about the accelerated schedule. The Festival is in a transition period and lacking institutional knowledge. We owe them some time to determine what this design will mean for them. There are too many unknowns regarding increased field use and how that will impact the neighborhood. Previously, the field replacement estimate was \$2 million. Now it's \$4 million. He would like additional time to digest this difference, and he needs more information.

Councilwoman Ruehle thanked the public for the turnout. This is a hard decision for Council, and she agrees with many of the points that have been made. She stated that she had not made a decision prior to this evening. She personally surveyed people to gauge their opinion. She appreciates the plan to add a softball field. She considered the environmental impacts, the light, the noise, the traffic, the synthetic turf infill, the possible impacts to our children and future generations, as well as the economic impact related to The Festival and their current struggles. We're a strong community and can work hard to ensure the success of The Festival. She had a conversation with Mr. Woodruff about the fuel needed to operate the lawn mowers and how that impacts the City financially and environmentally. She feels she has not left any stone unturned. She was on the original Turf Committee and agrees on many levels with Mr. Woodruff's assessment. We've kicked this can around for years and need to make a decision.

Councilwoman Williamson notes a difference of only five opinion votes this evening between those who value natural grass and those who are advocates for artificial turf. It puts Council in a difficult position to have to make this kind of decision. She is methodical and has analyzed all of the angles, evaluating the pros and cons on each side. When it comes to artificial turf, the numbers don't lie. To be fiscally conservative as possible, it appears to be the least expensive option over time. She has always been a fan of natural grass, but she is concerned about the amount of water needed and pesticides and fertilizer used. As Mr. Woodruff has stated, it's a difficult field to maintain in a natural environment. We need to implement stormwater pretreatment because field runoff ends up in the river and impacts water quality, and that comes at a cost. She has been unable to do a proper comparison of the costs over time to treat the contaminated stormwater. She has heard the comments, and no one believes this is a straight black and white decision.

Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that if Council chooses not to move forward with this design concept or direct staff to proceed with the RFQ this evening, staff will ask GreenPlay to produce an alternative design that considers the potential for other types of field surfaces. It would mean no construction project and no field surface

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replacement in 2020. This is based on the previous study that examined the various options. Whichever option was chosen, the construction period was the same; it was in the spring and summer, almost identical to the timeline presented here. In a good weather year, it might be possible to begin construction earlier, possibly in March, as opposed to April, but the construction timeline would be the same, and the earliest improvements could be made to the field would be 2021.

Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that, in order to issue dual RFQs, one for the design presented and one for a design that incorporates the use of natural turf, we would need a design that incorporates the use of natural turf, and we do not have such a design. The design presented by GreenPlay requires artificial turf. Because of the field pitch and drainage considerations required with the use of natural turf, the design presented would not work with natural turf. We could consider a natural surface, but it would be a dual path forward in terms of the engineering design and associated costs because we are not to the stage of issuing an RFQ for construction only. With the additional engineering costs that would be required if considering two surface options, the feasibility of installing either surface with funds available begins to become questionable.

We believe that we have the funding, with magnitude and working this back, to fund construction of this design, but engineering cost estimates are substantial. This would mean two different designs, with one contemplating a natural surface. We have estimates and numbers for that option from our earlier cost estimates and design. However, if we really want to see what that would look like, we would need to seek construction engineering. Otherwise, what you're looking at is a redesigned Memorial Field, more parking, different layout overall.

Councilwoman Williamson stated that we would be gaining additional information through the RFQ process in terms of what actual dollars are going to be spent. We know what revenue has been achieved through the 1% tax. She is just trying to get a better idea and understanding of the RFQ process costs.

Ms. Stapleton pointed out that, in the meeting packet, there is a complete budget that itemizes all of the associated costs, the estimated cost for engineering, as well as construction and all of the associated maintenance costs for artificial turf, which is anticipated for this concept design. That amount is \$295,000. We have budgeted this year \$2.7 million from the local option tax for RFQ and implementation.

Ms. Stapleton replied to **Councilwoman Williamson** that a dual process may cost around \$600,000. However, there may be some cost savings if we were to amend the RFQ and ask those responding to consider both options, so it may not be double the cost, but it's going to be a substantial increase; more than 50%. We have cost estimates for implementing one of those options. Like anytime we're moving forward with a project, it's a matter of completing the engineering and then looking at phasing and really getting into what construction costs would be at a more granular level. There is a detailed budget provided in the packet. If we were to contemplate an RFQ for natural turf, it would be on the existing playing surface, not on this reconfigured design.

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Councilwoman Williamson noted that we have had conflicting perceptions and desires from the community for years, and this is a significant decision, with impacts on our community into the future. She agrees with Councilwoman Ruehle that we need to stop kicking the can and make a decision. She is not comfortable tabling this matter and is just trying to assess how we might make the decision as a body together. She suggests a dual RFQ so that we have the best information moving forward as far as hard costs. At that point, we would hopefully have enough data as a Council to be comfortable and 100% confident in our decision moving forward.

Councilman Aispuro pointed out that there is no design for a natural grass surface to put forward.

Councilwoman Williamson clarified that, for natural grass, the RFQ would anticipate the exact layout currently in place at the field. For artificial turf, it would be the design presented by GreenPlay.

Councilman Aispuro stated that, since there is no design concept for natural grass, it appears we have put ourselves in the position that we have to go the route of artificial turf.

Councilwoman Ruehle observed that we have this preconceived notion that grass is natural. The forest is natural. The upkeep of a nice lawn requires pesticides and fertilizer. You have to crown a field for it to work properly. All of the uses at Memorial Field do not currently work together. This is the reason we have a subpar football field and an unsafe environment for baseball players in the outfield because they have those transitions with the crowned field. One of the main reasons we started down this path was to ensure that we do not have subpar fields. She appreciates the idea of looking at all the options, but it isn't going to be money well spent. We're going to have the option of either building a baseball field, building a softball field, or building a soccer/lacrosse/football field. From what she has heard and understands, all three cannot coexist in this space as it stands now.

Councilwoman Williamson stated that she agrees the concept that has been presented is ideal in terms of playability. The opinion is quite split and has been for some time. The ultimate costs are unknown, and without a dual RFQ, we will not know the exact costs in terms of natural grass vs. artificial turf. She has heard other Council members state that they would like additional information or additional time. She is not looking for additional time; she is looking for solutions. Exactly how much is it going to cost to implement a natural turf field? She would like to understand better what it's going to cost to keep it the way it is in terms of the different types of sports that this field can accommodate under natural grass conditions vs. what it is going to cost to accommodate additional uses and additional playing time on an artificial turf surface. She would like additional information in terms of cost and the actual plan under two different conditions. We've been presented with only one option. She sees the pros and cons of both and suggests altering the process to gather additional data and cost analysis. She is trying to present an alternative

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solution to put Council in the best position to feel confident in their decision.

Ms. Stapleton reiterated that the meeting packet includes cost estimates for all of the different options. However, a direct comparison is not possible because the design recommended by GreenPlay is a broader concept. It's a redesign of the entire field, including surface, access areas, expanded parking, and new stormwater system. Because it's a broader design concept, it's difficult to compare it to other options. The costs from the City's prior consultant are several years old and will have increased. In 2017, SPVV estimated the cost for a grass field at about \$1.1 million. The packet also includes an estimate at that time for a synthetic turf field at \$2 million. And, if considering all aspects of replacing the current field, the costs would be closer to \$1.5 million for grass. The overall estimated cost of \$4 million for GreenPlay's design includes new lighting, dugouts, diamonds, equipment, parking lot, realignment of infrastructure, and drainage for the synthetic turf. It's a broader design concept. All available comparisons are provided in the meeting packet. Using the same assumptions for the broader design concept and leaving the field exactly as-is, an estimate for engineering costs for a grass field option will be in the range of \$150,000 to \$200,000. The estimated cost of engineering services for GreenPlay's design concept is \$295,000. If dual RFQs are issued for both a grass field option and GreenPlay's recommended design, the total cost for engineering services will be in excess of half a million dollars.

Councilwoman Williamson stated that, in terms of parking, lighting, drainage, etc., there are many changes planned for Memorial Field if GreenPlay's recommended design is approved. She is not advocating for a grass field option RFQ without those considerations. She understands that not all design elements would translate to a grass field option, but she believes it would be wise to gather data that would be as close as possible, considering, for instance, parking lot and lighting changes, which are not related to the actual field surface, in order to see a better comparison.

Mayor Rognstad stated that he understands Councilwoman Williamson's passion for data-driven decision-making, but it appears there is an attempt to drill down to what will cost the least. He is not hearing that as a priority from the public. What he is hearing from the public is passionate expression of their desire for either a grass field vs. the advantages provided by synthetic turf. We can attempt to arrive at exact figures and timelines, but the funds are available, and the opportunity is presented now. Approval of the design tonight will allow for construction in the coming year, completed in time for The Festival at Sandpoint in August. Details on specific costs and timelines would unfold through the RFQ process. Given the public comments, this is a passionate and divisive issue, and he feels for all those who feel so passionate about this issue and for the Council members who will need to make this decision. He agrees with Mr. Woodruff and Councilwoman Ruehle that we've been kicking this can down the road for four years. We made a commitment to the 73% of voters who approved the 1% local option sales tax that the War Memorial Field project would be completed before sunset of the tax at the end of 2020. It isn't comfortable to have to make these types of decisions with such passion and division, but we need to stand by our commitment. He has heard that some believe there was a decision already made at the time the tax was approved that the new

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field surface would be synthetic turf. He is not aware of any such decision. However, this is an issue with which the community has been grappling for four years. Now is the time to make a decision, and to him the choice is clear that the amount of use available from synthetic turf far outweighs what we could achieve with a grass field. The costs relatively balance out. The Festival can be accommodated with synthetic turf, and it absolutely should be. It may not be considered the ideal environment for those attending The Festival in terms of historic use, which has been fantastic; there may be some sacrifice in that regard. With the longevity and the use available for our youth into the future, synthetic turf just makes sense. He appreciated Mr. Bessler's and Councilman Aispuro's observations about the tight timeline. Through the master planning effort, we are seeking to arrive at a decision on this difficult question that we have been working toward for years. While the master planning process may seem accelerated, and the final concept was released just two weeks ago, we are trying to meet that voter expectation of the finished product within that timeframe. We should not "get into the weeds" about how much this or that may cost. He believes it's irrelevant for everyone here tonight.

Councilman Aitken disagreed, stating that the cost is all that is relevant.

Mayor Rognstad continued, stating that, when it comes to cost, we can afford either option. He is not hearing from the public that their preference for a grass field or synthetic turf is based on cost. This is an expensive project, regardless which option is chosen, and, over ten years, the cost is relatively on par. He agrees with Councilwoman Ruehle that a decision needs to be made.

Councilwoman Williamson clarified that she was not advocating for a dual RFQ process because it's all about the money. She has listened to those in attendance tonight and has listened to every single opportunity for public comment, and it has not become crystal clear on either side. She is trying to find a middle ground where an opportunity can be pursued to gather more information that will inform Council's decision. GreenPlay has done an amazing job and has presented an innovative design, to which she is not necessarily opposed. She is opposed to not hearing from her constituents and their concerns. She understands the tight timeline and is trying to better understand from staff, if we were to pursue a dual RFQ process, what implications it would have on the timeline. This information will help her make a better decision. She doesn't believe it's necessary to table a decision. She is trying to propose more options that would better allow Council to make a decision.

Ms. Stapleton responded that we may not be in a position with this timeline to issue an RFQ for engineering design for a grass field option, as there is no design concept that includes this option. If the decision is made to issue dual RFQs, typically, due to pricing, we wouldn't be going down the path of an engineering design with two completely different concepts. If this will require revising design concepts and spending money on those activities, it is typically happening at that stage of a project, as opposed to seeking engineering design. We would need to pull the concept currently presented and return to Council with another design concept, although much of that work was done in SPVV's report, in terms of looking at the different options, but the cost estimates within that report

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are two years old. GreenPlay did an analysis by square footage costs in order to provide some basis for understanding the difference between the costs for a grass field vs. synthetic turf, but that is for the surface only, not considering drainage.

Councilman Aitken commented that it isn't just a matter of a grass field or synthetic turf. Council's sole job is about money and making a fiscal decision that is wise for the City. What is presented this evening is \$2 million more than what was previously presented. We have studies that were presented in 2015 and 2017. He, Councilman Eddy, Councilwoman Williamson, Mayor Rognstad, and Councilwoman Ruehle were in office at that time, but Councilman Darling and Councilman Aispuro were not. At a minimum, at the time the contracts are approved, two new Councilors will be in office, and possibly four new elected officials will be at the dais. This Council could approve a contract with a firm chosen through the RFQ process, but the new Council may not agree. He believes a little more time is warranted. He stated that, two Councils ago, he said they should make a decision before election time, and then another election cycle arrived, and he made the same comment, and we're there again now. He believes it's worth the wait to see what happens with Ponderay's local option tax vote, as that could change Council's view on the best option for the field surface. That time is not far off, and he believes the RFQ could still be issued. He believes Council needs more time and that the public needs more time to provide additional feedback.

Councilwoman Ruehle pointed out that, with the remainder of the work GreenPlay accomplished, there is an initial concept for City Beach, and it implies a grassy venue where other types of activities could be held, such as Shakespeare Festival and potentially music festivals. She believes that there is potential to make everyone happy, and GreenPlay definitely made an effort to consider different options because they were not embedded in the community, which she appreciated. She encourages review of all of the concepts and the full plan in order to be fully informed.

Councilman Aispuro stated that he wanted to be clear that his vote will not be for or against one surface or the other, it is simply to seek more time. He believes those who may vote against the concept or disagree with synthetic turf have common sense.

Councilwoman Williamson commented that she thinks additional insight into an alternative plan is needed, given the feedback she has heard not only this evening but over and over again in the community. She is a data-driven person; it's what defines her, and that is how she makes decisions.

Mayor Rognstad noted the great public participation and thanked everyone for their attendance. He was always leaning on the side of a grass field through the early years of this debate. What has become increasingly clear to him is that the overall benefit of synthetic turf is going to far outweigh, over time, when we look at playability of the field that many different types of athletics will be able to enjoy for years to come. The overall benefit is going to be greater in the long run. The cost difference is close to a wash, and with the extra play that is realized with synthetic turf, it ends up being a cost improvement because it would take many fields to accomplish the same amount of playability. Through

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this design and through our efforts working together collaboratively with The Festival, we've been able to find ways to accommodate The Festival, and this is the greatest win-win for the community.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Aispuro | No |
| Councilman Darling | Yes |
| Councilwoman Ruehle | Yes |
| Councilwoman Williamson | No |
| Councilman Aitken | No |
| Councilman Eddy | Yes |

The vote resulted in a tie. Mayor Rognstad voted yes, and the motion passed.

Mayor Rognstad stated that this is the most difficult decision that he has made in four years in this body, and that may be the case for Council, as well. Even though there may have been more emotionally-charged issues, this is representative of a true split within the community. He feels for those who are in favor of a grass field and appreciates everyone's participation tonight and through the course of this process.

Mayor Rognstad recessed the meeting for a break at 8:37 p.m.

Meeting recessed.

Mayor Rognstad called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m.

III. CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – New Sidewalk Construction (City Code 7-3-10)

Councilman Darling moved to table this item to the November 6, 2019, regular meeting.

Councilman Aispuro seconded the motion.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Eddy | Yes |
| Councilwoman Williamson | Yes |
| Councilman Darling | Yes |
| Councilman Aispuro | Yes |
| Councilman Aitken | Yes |
| Councilwoman Ruehle | No |

The motion passed by a majority vote of Council.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

D. **MEETING MINUTES** (*approval of City Council minutes; acknowledgment of all others*)

1. City Council – September 26, 2019, Special Meeting
2. City Council – October 2, 2019, Regular Meeting
3. Planning and Zoning Commission – September 3, 2019
4. Historic Preservation Commission – August 20, 2019

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5. Urban Renewal Board – September 3, 2019

E. **BILLS** in the amount of \$698,661.34 (\$497,796.57 for payroll and \$200,864.77 for regular payables).

**F. TREASURER’S REPORT ON CASH AND INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS –
AUGUST 31, 2019**

Councilman Aispuro moved that items D-1 through F be approved. **Councilman Eddy seconded the motion.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Ruehle | Yes |
| Councilman Aitken | Yes |
| Councilman Aispuro | Yes |
| Councilman Darling | Yes |
| Councilwoman Williamson | Yes |
| Councilman Eddy | Yes |

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

V. NEW BUSINESS

**G. RESOLUTION NO. 19-56 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH IDAHO STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR SANDPOINT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN
GRANT**

Grants and Performance Management Administrator Linda Heiss reported that the City was awarded \$8,000 from the Idaho State Historical Society. This plan will be combined with the Arts and Culture Plan, but, at this time, we need to accept the grant. The required \$8,000 match will come from the City in the form of in-kind hours already banked.

Councilwoman Williamson moved that the proposed Resolution, Memorandum of Agreement with Idaho State Historical Society for Sandpoint Historic Preservation Plan Grant be approved. **Councilwoman Ruehle seconded the motion.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Williamson | Yes |
| Councilman Aitken | Yes |
| Councilman Darling | Yes |
| Councilman Eddy | Yes |
| Councilman Aispuro | Yes |
| Councilwoman Ruehle | Yes |

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

**H. RESOLUTION NO. 19-57 CONTRACT WITH LAKE CITY LAW GROUP, PLLC, AND
CITY ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT**

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City Administrator Jennifer Stapleton reported that, shortly after former City Attorney Scot Campbell retired in the spring, an RFQ for City Attorney services was issued, but only one response was received. A second RFQ was issued this summer, and we received three additional proposals. The contract with Mr. Herrington over the past few months has provided some insight into how the City functions with a contract City Attorney. Staff met with two of the law firms that it was felt had the requisite background and would best meet the needs of the City. A selection committee led by Mayor Rognstad and composed of Ms. Stapleton, Infrastructure and Development Services Manager Amanda Wilson and Police Chief Corey Coon unanimously chose Lake City Law Group. This firm contracts with the City's liability insurance provider, Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP). When an attorney is assigned by ICRMP to represent the City when needed, it is invariably this firm. Additionally, Peter Erbland, one of the partners, was recently engaged to represent the City in the lawsuit filed by Bonner County and Sheriff Wheeler surrounding the issue of firearms at The Festival at Sandpoint. The attorney with the firm who will be assigned as the City Attorney, Andy Doman, could not be here this evening but will be in attendance at future Council meetings. Attorney Fonda Jovick, who primarily works out of the firm's Priest River Office, specializes in planning and zoning issues and will be present at the City's Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. This arrangement will provide attorney coverage at all meetings and redundancy that we have not had in the past. If Council approves moving forward with the contract, Mr. Doman will be sworn in at a later time.

Councilwoman Williamson moved that the proposed Resolution, Contract with Lake City Law Group, PLLC, and City Attorney Appointment be approved. **Councilman Aispuro seconded the motion.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Eddy | Yes |
| Councilwoman Williamson | Yes |
| Councilman Darling | Yes |
| Councilman Aitken | Yes |
| Councilwoman Ruehle | Yes |
| Councilman Aispuro | Yes |

The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rognstad adjourned the regular meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Shelby Rognstad, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ward, City Clerk