

April 17, 2018

The special work session meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Lorraine Borowski at 5:00p.m. The meeting was a joint session with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Board.

Council Members present: Dan Bellrichard, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, Johanna Bergan. Absent: Randy Schissel.

Staff Members present: City Manager Chad Bird, Parks Director Andy Nimrod, and Street Superintendent Kevin Nelson.

Planning & Zoning Commission Members present: Brian Cook, Stan Moellers, Barbara Massman, Joel Zook, Tony Clarke, and Nathan Thompson.

Parks & Recreation Board Members present: Rich Gaard, Shirley Vermace, Jeff O'Gara, and Kathy Bakken.

Work session with Planning & Zoning Commission and Park Board

This meeting is a community development and planning session which focused on the Decorah Community School District's proposed elementary school site

Bird opened the meeting with a few comments about the purpose of the meeting, to engage the planning commission and park board in discussion about the proposed school site and general community planning.

Cook and Moellers inquired about looking at land to the North of the city as potential growth areas and why the school couldn't go in that region. Hadley shared some information about the city looking at transportation in the North area.

Bird spoke about growth areas as defined in the city's 2012 comprehensive plan. He noted that generally North and South are defined as residential growth areas.

Resident April Bril spoke about walkability and the community's visioning planning process.

Carlson asked school officials if they would consider long term lease options. Haluska noted it may depend on bond counsel review and legal regulations.

O'Gara noted that finding a suitable location for the ball diamonds was a main issue for him.

Vermace noted that the city needs to look at bigger picture items and wondered if the elementary students could go in the high school and the District look to build a new high school in another, outer reach location.

Bellrichard asked about the task force that was offered by the District and there was some discussion about forming that group to review details in various options and possible ball field relocation options.

Mayor Borowski closed the meeting by thanking those involved in the process and for the feedback on the issues.

Meeting adjourned on motion at 6:30pm.

Respectfully,



City Manager