

DCCF Grant Opportunity Discussion

May 17, 2023

Malta Village Hall, 302 S. 2nd Street

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Present

Bob Iversen, Debbie Lang, Brenda Jergens, Debe Fullington, Jacque Fucilla, Malarie Schumacher, Annette Meares, Christie Iversen, Scott Kaelin, Kevin McArtor, Tammy Arneson, Ann Mueller, Erin McNeal

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Brenda Jergens at 6:00 PM

Minutes of meeting on April 19, 2023 as sent.

MOTION to approve minutes by Debe Fullington, SECONDED by Annette Meares. Motion carried.

Discussion about pond development

Bob Iversen said the village is focused on getting the pond finished, dirt grading, and installing an automated pump system within two years. That would make the area “park ready.” Currently, the village is waiting for the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation project to be completed before they can proceed with plans for the pond. Hopefully that project will be finished in less than two months.

The five year plan would involve landscaping, paths, possible sledding hill, and other amenities. The Seedling Committee could play a role in this part of the process.

Scott Kaelin explained some of the drainage considerations for the site. The layout of the park would have to take drainage needs into account. Also, the small pond is a wetland and changes to that pond would need to be discussed with Illinois natural resources. If a snow hill is added it would need to be away from the water. Right now, there is a large amount of clay soil that needs to be removed.

The village has an engineer that they have worked with for many years. They will work with the engineer to put together a plan. The village has already done extensive engineering at the pond.

The costs associated with engineering, and site preparation at the pond would be handled by the village.

The DCCF economic development grant would not be useable at this stage of development for the pond. The Seedling committee could apply for a community grant in a few years to work on designing and completing the park around the pond.

This discussion was helpful to get everyone involved on the same page about the pond project.

Discussion of possible projects for the grant

Grant funds must be used for implementation of the 2017 goals set by the Seedling Project.

Splash Pad – Other communities have built splash pads. It would be a fun summer activity for kids. Where would it be located? Would it be in the middle of events held at the park? A possible location would be at the southwest corner of Lions Park where the baseball diamond is being removed. There would need to be a building to hold pumps and possible changing area. There would need to be a parking area and a fence around the splash pad.

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Pickle ball court – This sport is popular right now. The tennis court at Lions Park could be used for this purpose. Lions Club is currently fixing up the tennis court.

Brenda Jergens attended a zoom meeting about fixing up buildings in towns. She will email the information.

Old post office building at 218 Adams street – The village owns this property and the building needs to be taken down. We discussed using the space for a small stage that can be used for street festivals, and additional entertainment opportunities. The committee wants to explore this idea.

Discussion about 218 Adams becoming a community stage

We will need an estimate for taking down the building. Previous demolition projects in the village have cost between \$8,000 and \$15,000.

The DCCF economic development grant could be used for the entire process – demolition and construction.

The process will involve creating blueprints, getting permits, planning for electricity and lighting, ordinances for seating and closing the street. There is a common wall that 218 Adams shares with the building (old bank) next to it. The common wall will have to be considered in the design process. The design for the stage needs to take into consideration the acoustics of the space.

The committee will discuss this project further at the next meeting and decide how to proceed.

Other

Mural lighting update

Jacque talked with the Kylers about electricity usage for lighting the mural. The tenant pays the cost of electricity for the building. The Kylers said we can figure out a plan to pay for electricity.

Erin McNeal talked with an electrician in town, and he said he might be able to install the lights, but will need another person to help.

There is an electric meter on the Malta Route 38 sign. We would need to run a line underground from the sign to the mural. Scott Kaelin will look into an estimate for hooking up the mural lighting to the electric sign meter.

Malarie Schumacher motioned to adjourn. Debe Fullington seconded. Adjourned at 6:43 PM.