

Waxahachie Community Development Corporation  
June 13, 2023

A special meeting of the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) was held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Daniel Morton, President  
Elizabeth Tull, Vice President  
David Hill, Mayor  
Michael Scott, City Manager  
Bob Lynn  
David McSpadden  
Jim Phillips

Ex-Officio: Amber Villarreal, City Secretary  
Members Present: Chad Tustison, Director of Finance  
Kevin Strength, President/CEO Chamber of Commerce

Others Present: Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Jami Bonner, Assistant City Secretary

**1. Call to Order**

President Dan Morton called the meeting to order.

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Discuss and consider placement of Chris Kyle statue at the Civic Center**

Patrick Souter introduced an opportunity to display a Chris Kyle statue, owned by the Cherokee Nation and entrusted to the Heroes Services Coalition (HSC), at the Civic Center. Mr. Souter stated he was approached by the HSC in hopes of finding a home for the statue potentially at the Civic Center's Heroes Memorial. He noted the proposed agreement includes a hold harmless clause for the City.

Robert Bell, President & CEO of Heroes Services Coalition, explained available locations for placement are limited as the 6.5-foot statue must be kept indoors and out of direct sunlight per an agreement with the Cherokee Nation. The statue would be enclosed in plexiglass (or other material) to prevent visitors from damaging the statue. Mr. Bell stated he has been in contact with the Civic Center staff and a potential location has been identified near the Heroes Memorial in an enclave. He mentioned an information plaque would be displayed with the statue; however, there have been discussions of a larger informational display. The cleaning and upkeep of the statue would be the responsibility of the Heroes Services Coalition.

Jim Phillips asked if the placement of the statue would disrupt any activities at the Civic Center and April Ortiz, Civic Center Director, confirmed that she does not foresee any operational disruptions due to the statue.

City Manager Michael Scott explained the agreement is between the Heroes Services Coalition and the Cherokee Nation. The City of Waxahachie is a nonparty to the agreement. All bonding and liability are the responsibility of the Heroes Services Coalition and the Cherokee Nation. If approved, the City is committing to a two-year term. Mr. Bell stated the agreement can be terminated with a 30-day written notice by the City or Heroes Services Coalition.

Mr. Bell noted Chris Kyle's parents, Wayne and Debbie Kyle, are supportive of the statue project.

**Action:**

*Dave McSpadden moved to approve placement of the Chris Kyle statue at the Civic Center. Jim Phillips seconded, All Ayes.*

**4. Hear report of YMCA fundraising efforts and consider funding request**

Jon McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Waxahachie YMCA, presented plans to expand / renovate the current YMCA facility and development eight acres of green space, owned by the YMCA. The concept includes a community park with an 18,000 sq. ft. pavilion that will shade basketball courts and a turf field. The open-air space will feature a baseball field, pickle ball courts, sand volley ball courts, and soccer fields. The parking lot will be expanded and include a food truck plaza. The project will also include an 8,000 sq. ft. facility expansion and renovation of the current facility.

Brett Hess, YMCA Board Member, explained that a flood plain study is near completion and will address how to vacate 9 ½ acres out of the flood plain. He has reached out to local businesses to assist in the efforts by providing resources such as dirt.

Mr. McLaughlin noted the YMCA Association will monetarily contribute to the expansion / renovation of the facility as it will grow the capacity for membership; however, the majority of the park development will need to be fundraised as it will be utilized by the community. The YMCA Association is supportive of the entire project. After researching similar projects, Mr. McLaughlin estimates the cost for the completed project to be approximately \$4.5 million - \$5 million. He noted a \$1.5 million ARPA grant has been awarded and approximately \$300,000 has already been fundraised. Mr. McLaughlin stated the next step will be to engage professionals to prepare a budget and begin the design process.

After further discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to review a firm budget prior to considering a funding request at a future meeting. The Board asked Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Hess to also research and present various fundraising strategies.

**5. Hear report and consider funding for mural project**

After meeting with the City Manager, Director of Downtown Development, and a local artist, Dave McSpadden recommended the mural project start conservatively with three downtown sites. Mr. McSpadden explained the next steps will be to secure property owner approval to utilize their building for a mural and for the WCDC to consider funding the estimated \$95,000 mural project. He noted the WCDC and property owners would review artists' designs and have

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final approval of the mural designs. All artists are professionals in the field and are bonded and insured. Mr. Scott recommended including community members for design input.

It was the general consensus of the Board to contact property owners to gauge support and approval to utilize buildings for murals and consider funding at the July WCDC meeting.

**6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Bonner

Assistant City Secretary