

Pioneer Park approved by commission

PARK, from Page 1

\$1,000 from a farm family and another for \$500, plus many smaller donations.

"There is some enthusiasm for getting a new entrance and it comes from across the community."

"If we cut this back, will the community fill in?" Blume asked.

"We are not going to stop raising money," Tromble said, "and more will come in time."

Blume agreed that the donations showed the community interest.

"This is a chance to get that part of town brought up to shape," Blume said. "I challenge the town to help finish this project."

"We can't spend money we don't have," Commissioner Jim Mull said. "Option 1 looks good to me if we can do it."

"We can add on later," Garcia said. "I called the Wal-Mart manager and talked to him about any possibility of helping. He told me about an annual grant program the city might consider."

"This project has been on hold, and we need to get it moving. As time goes on, we will add what we can. I will make the motion to approve option one as presented by the staff."

The motion was second by Dave Daniels, commissioner member, and the mayor asked if there were any other questions.

"I would like to address this issue," said Dave Walker, employee of the Kit Carson Correctional Center who is a candidate for city commission. "We have had another business that has closed on Main (Scooters) and another has gone up for sale (Cowboy Loop)."

"I do not see the need to create a new park. If we don't change the economics, that new park will be an entrance to a ghost town."

"This is a lift station, and when the city recovers, we can consider doing a park. We have too much of

City's options on Pioneer Park

The city commission had three options to consider Monday to deal with Pioneer Park.

Option 1 was to accept the low base bid from Miller Construction not to exceed \$407,574 and authorize the staff to negotiate with Miller to reduce the cost by \$30,000.

The change would eliminate the drinking fountain, reduce the landscape trees and shrubs by half and eliminate the lawn sprinkler system but keep a drip system for the trees and shrubs. The other change would be to have the seed mix be all buffalo grass, with no extra cost, to keep down the need for sprinklers.

With the changes, City Manager Ron Pickman said, the cost, including engineering, would be \$481,074. The memo said the money would come from a federal grant (\$100,000), interest earned (\$17,218), Kansas Department of Transportation funds (\$110,252), Pioneer Park donations (\$2,549), leftover money from aerial photo project (\$10,000), a Crimestoppers donation (\$10,000), charitable trust donations (\$7,897), a First National Bank donation (\$10,000) and Kansas Department of Transportation grant (\$210,000). The total of these are \$477,915.

That leaves a shortfall of \$3,084, and Pickman said he felt the city staff could find that much or the Rev. Gene Tromble might gather additional donations to cover that amount.

Option 2 was to reduce the scope of the project and get new bids using Department of Transporta-

tion specifications. Pickman's memo said this option would probably increase costs, eliminate items or reduce the project. This would bring the overall cost estimate for the project to \$435,854. Under this option, Pickman said the city would lose the Crimestoppers donation (\$10,000) and may lose the First National Bank donation (\$10,000), reducing the available funds to \$457,915.

"This option does not reduce the overall cost by a large amount," Pickman said, "but it does eliminate substantial parts of the project — mainly the fence. Under this option, there is no guarantee the prices will not increase due to the reduction of the project. This option requires a re-bid that would be open to any contractor wishing to submit a bid."

Option 3 would reduce the scope of the project. The re-design project would eliminate major items such as fencing, a hike-and-bike path, landscape trees and shrubs and the irrigation system.

The project would still include the excavation, compaction, retaining wall, seeding, temporary sediment barrier, temporary ditch check, lift station, concrete for drainage including the inlet and storm sewer, welcome sign, sign lighting, electrical conduit, transformer, secondary electrical system and manhole extension.

Pickman said this option would cost \$180,000 to \$200,000. Under the last option, the city would lose the state grant of \$210,000, the Crimestoppers \$10,000 and the First National Bank \$10,000, leaving the available funding at \$247,915.

a tax burden now."

"I agree with you on some of those points," Billinger said. "I believe we can negotiate with Miller to get this done."

"There was a wide disparity on the set-up costs," Walker said. "This could have been a misunderstanding of the specifications. It would seem to be simple to put the lift station in and do the minimum."

"Taxes are not going down. What is the least we can do on this project?"

Pickman said the state has given the \$210,000 grant for the landscaping, plants and hike-and-bike trail.

"We have to do that for the \$210,000," Pickman said.

Darin Neufeld, project engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said Option 1 is not a renegotiation of the project. The way it was bid, he said, the changes are just an adjustment in the quantity of units in the bid items.

Walker asked Neufeld if the project could be cut down and keep the state grant.

Neufeld said the total participating cost has to stay over \$300,000 to keep the \$210,000, with \$90,000 from the city.

Walker said that is what he is talk-

ing about cutting out all the "non-participating" parts to cut the project down to the minimum.

"That would cut out all the things the people are contributing to the new park for," Tromble said.

Mayor Billinger called a halt to the discussion and asked City Clerk Mary Volk to call the roll. The result was unanimous 5-0 to approve option 1.

The next step will be for Pickman to sit down with Miller.

He said if the negotiations fail, the city will have to consider stepping back to option 2 and doing a re-bid.

City makeover planned

MAKEOVER, from Page 1

pick up metal objects like old appliances.

On Saturday, April, 23, he said, the group will clean up around the highway entrances to the city.

"We need everybody in the community involved," he said, "if this is going to be a success."

He expects some people to take their own trash to the dump on the cleanup days, but not everyone can do it on their own.

The city likes the idea, he said, but they may have liability issues with employees helping with the effort. Clouse hopes some city employees will volunteer their time on a Saturday.

"We're asking other community people to step up and do this," he said, adding that he expects members of the Chamber board to volunteer their time.

"I really believe we have to show the leadership and set the example," he said.

The committee's goal, he said,

is to get vacant properties and run-down areas of town cleaned up.

"It is an enormous project," he added.

Board member Debbie Reed recalled the success of the "junk parade" a few years ago. She said a lot of the town service organizations got involved and collected a lot of trash.

Clouse said he has a list of organizations, including the Lions Club, Kiwanis, Veterans of Foreign Wars, sororities and more, to approach for help. Board member Tremon Kizer volunteered to speak with high school service club sponsors to enlist help.

To advertise the event, Clouse said, the committee plans to put public service announcements on the radio, television channels and in the newspaper. He said they want to put mention of the cleanup in the Chamber newsletter, church bulletins, the Sugar Hills Golf Club newsletter and any other publication.

Homestead Realty/ Bane Auction

ABSOLUTE SALE FOR THE BARBARA LOVELACE ESTATE

Saturday, Feb. 19,

VFW Hall, 824 Main, Goodland, Kan.

STARTING TIME 9:30 a.m. sharp.

This is another sale where the hall will be full with something for everyone. Lunch served by the VFW Auxiliary so plan on spending the day.

VEHICLE (selling at approx. 1 pm) 1991 Pontiac Bonneville, 4dr, V-8, 78,260 one owner miles

FURNITURE:

Lighted Oak glass curio hutch; Nice tan and flowered sofa; Sofa sleeper; 2 matching recliner - rockers; Tan swivel rocker; Mauve glider rocker; Lighted corner curio hutch; Wood drop leaf table with 4 chairs; Wood drop leaf table with 2 chairs; Kitchen table with 4 chairs; High back chair; Double bed with chest, night stand; Twin Bed; 2 night stands; 2 sets coffee and end tables; Zenith console TV with remote; Portable TV; 2 corner shelves

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

TV stand; Book case; Boxes of dishes, cookware, glassware; Music Box; Small writing desk; Lots of sheets, blankets; Wicker baskets; Wood storage cabinet; Pictures & wall hangings; Halogen bar light; 5 shelf wall unit; Hoover Brush Vac; Brass swing-arm light; Round patio table with 2 chairs; Hoover canister vacuum; Oak What-Not-Shelf; Unique floor lamp; Elect heaters; Cookie Cutters; Magazine rack; Nick Knacks & stand; 19 Springbox Jigsaw Puzzles; Woven Wall hanging; 2 ft tall Mason jar; Whirlpool microwave; Apple bird house; Necchi 503A sewing machine; Concrete lawn ornaments

ANTIQUES

4 small stands; 2 Ron Lee Hobo collection pates with Spanish Mariache statue; Smoking stand; certificates; Pepsi metal sign; Round Oak table, 2 leafs; (No Camping or Fishing) American toy sign, metal; Oak chair; (Traveling in Style) 3 Furbies / Original boxes; Cookie jar; Carnival glass; Small Quilt; Green Depression glassware; 60's Syrup dispenser; Stained glass lamp; Pop, whiskey and misc bottles; Milk bottles; Ceramic bowls; 50's pop cooler; Union Pacific calendars; Christmas Village Trees; Several old toys; Mechanical bartender toy; 4 Plaques of the Season; Barbie toys; Costume jewelry; 1929 buttermilk containers; Cream caps from Goodland

MORE ITEMS NOT LISTED

This will be a large sale again so please be on time. For more information contact Terry Richardson at Homestead Realty, 1023 Main, Goodland. 785-899-2328, 899-3093 or cell 899-8094 www.goodlandksrealestate.com

Internet tonight!
Call 899-2338

City health insurance costs drop 8 percent

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The City Commission and city employees got good news Monday when the health insurance renewal came in with an 8 percent decrease in cost for this year.

Charles Krull, area representative for Blue Cross and Blue Shield, told the commission the decrease was because the city employees were not abusing the health insurance system, and there were not any large claims over the past year.

"Your estimated cost for this year is within \$4 of what the total was two years ago," Krull said. "Some of the changes in deductible and stop loss made three years ago have had a positive impact."

The city has a partly self-funded health plan where the city handles

all the claims up to \$15,000 and a "stop loss" policy from Blue Cross that kicks in after the \$15,000 is reached.

Krull said the city has 44 family and 16 singles participating in the plan. It has a \$500 deductible with a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$1,500 for a family. The plan provides for an 80-20 cost share up to \$1,000 and there is a \$10 office visit copay.

City employees have a dental plan that pays 100 percent of check-ups and 50 percent of dental work, with a \$25 deductible.

"We are expecting less than a 1 percent change in claims," Krull said.

He said the overall cost to the city is expected to drop about 8 percent while the trend is running 12-13

percent upward nationally and 7-8 percent up around the state.

He said the city employees all should have a new identification card with a random number which replaces the Social Security number as an account identifier.

"The idea of changing the number is to reduce the threat of identity theft," Krull said. "The federal regulations call for the change to be made by next year, but we decided to get it done as quickly as possible."

The commissioners unanimously approved renewing the employee health insurance.

In other business, the commission:

- Appointed Roxie Cabral, who works for the Regional Prevention Center in Colby and handles the

Food, fun brings people together

CHAMBER, from Page 1

Rasure Do It Center, will be the new treasurer; and the newest board member, Karen Ginther of Western State Bank, will be secretary.

Other board members include Joshua Dechant, Bankwest; Dar- ick Leiker of High Plains Office Supply; Debbie Reed, Hayden Inc.; Ken Clouse, Northwest Kansas Technical College president; and Kizer.

Warden will give guests a Cham-

ber update, including a review of the past year and an outline for the upcoming year.

"I'm looking forward to proving what we've done and accomplished last year," she said.

Membership plaques and stickers for this year will be handed out by Warden after Siemens finishes. Swager said they will allow microphone time for individual businesses to recognize employees.

Board members agreed the banquet is not only a time for businesses

to come together and mingle, but also a chance to make their voices heard in the Chamber.

Throughout the night, Swager said, they plan to have a projector presentation set up with photos of last year's Chamber events. She will start the presentation and then let the pictures loop all night. The board plans to set up a table to accept donations for the July 4 Freedom Fest and to offer potential members information on the benefits of joining the Chamber.

ENJOY
TONIGHT AT THE MOVIES
AT THE MOVIES

The
Goodland Star-News

SUBSCRIBER

Scott Schultz

You receive two free passes to see

Racing Stripes
PG

Sherman

1203 MAIN - Phone 899-6103

Present Ticket at Box Office
Tickets are Non-Transferable

Shop Burlington for all your needs

Health Essentials

Natural Foods, Vitamins,
Massage Therapy,
Acupuncture & More

Natural Living Cottage
& Wellness Center

314 14th Street, Burlington, Co.

719-346-4681

In Stitches

Your Total
Scrapbooking Store

Come join us to learn how to
scrapbook. Call for information

1371 Rose Ave.,

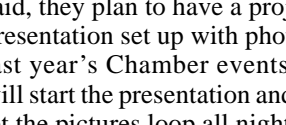
Burlington, Co.

719-346-5538 1-800-247-9081

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - noon

The Feed Bunk



- Controlled consumption guaranteed
- Protein and mineral tabs
- Increase Profits and Herd Health

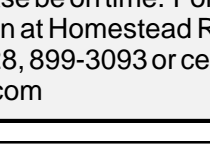
1847 Rose Ave.,

Burlington, Co.

719-346-5220

Let
Advertising work for you!

Call
785-899-2338



- Flooring • Gift Items
- Gourmet Chocolate
- Window Covering
- Wall paper

Superior Flooring &
Rugs

360 14th Street, Burlington, Co.

719-346-7579

Dan & Myrna Troyer