

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

February 10, 2010

"City Looking for More Feedback"

It is Norfolk citizens who will be sitting in the stands at football games, swimming at the pool, and catching fly balls at the baseball field. That's why Mayor Sue Fuchtman and members of the Norfolk City Council are planning to have more town hall meetings –to get increased input from Norfolk citizens on the proposed city recreation plan.

"Our first town hall meeting was a great success with many people coming forward with ideas and comments. It showed that our community has great interest in the project and is willing to share ideas to make it happen," Mayor Fuchtman said.

An estimated 175 people attended a town hall meeting January 25 to hear project engineers explain details about a plan to revamp Memorial Park with an updated football field and new aquatic needs. A new baseball field would be built next to the existing diamonds in the softball complex at TaHaZouka Park.

"We were pleased with the turnout and the discussion. Input from citizens is needed to mold this project into one that most people are happy with and will vote for. A town hall meeting allows people to have an open forum where they can come and give suggestions and let us know what they're thinking," said Dave Fauss, Norfolk City Council member representing the 2nd ward.

The last town hall meeting was held at the Lifelong Learning Center and the future meetings –possibly as early as late March–may also be held there.

"The Lifelong Learning Center provided more room and people felt free to talk. With more people involved and communicating there becomes more trust in the process," said Erik Wilson, City Council member representing the 4th ward.

The cost for the proposed plan presented in January was \$23 million. Of that amount, \$9.8 million would be for the football field, \$3.8 million for the baseball field and \$9.9 million for the aquatics center. Council members have since been working with city staff and project coordinators to reduce those costs.

"We're in the process of scaling back the project. As we get more input we're finding out the priorities of the citizens of Norfolk. We do know that there is agreement for improved recreation needs. Now we need to fine tune that into a plan we can all support," said Mayor Fuchtman.