ASHLEY YOUNG ON PROPOSED CITY OF KIRKSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION 1/2 CENT SALES TAX

In Ron Gaber’s introduction, we learned that Ashley Young has been assistant city manager since February, 2014. A past president of the Kirksville Kiwanis club, Ashley is a graduate of Princeton (MO) High School. In 2007 he earned a degree in Anthropology from Truman State University.

Ashley provided details on the April 4 ballot initiative to impose a sales tax of 1/2 of 1% for 15 years for the purpose of funding City parks and recreation. If approved, our sales tax would increase to 8.35%, which would still be lower than Macon, Moberly, Hannibal and Mexico and far less than nearly 10% imposed in many areas of Columbia.

The City owns and maintains 11 parks and recreation areas covering over 2,000 acres including Hazel Creek and Forest Lake areas. Many of the parks need basic to extensive repairs and improvements. In particular, the Aquatic Center is in a deteriorated condition due to poor design and lack of funding. A new well-built Aquatic Center would cost between $4-7 million. The existing complex could be repurposed as a community center. Capital needs (excluding the Aquatic Center) represent $2.8 million and the City’s current capital budget is $60,000. If the tax is not approved, it would take 114-164 years to meet our needs at $60,000/year. If approved, it is estimated that the Capital improvement budget would be $760,000, representing 50% of the overall budget. The new tax would generate $1.2 million/year. It would allow for the existing Parks general revenue support to go to the Kirksville Police, a sum estimated to be $330,000. Ashley said the City has not had a dedicated revenue stream for Parks and Recreation for 15 years and this new tax will allow that to change. Pictured above from left are President Elect Jill Williams (who conducted today’s meeting), Ashley Young and Rotary Park Committee Chair Ron Gaber. In right photo, Ray Klinginsmith displays a poster the “Better Parks & Recreation for Kirksville” group is placing around town in support of the new tax.

50-50 Drawing: Ron Gaber did not pull the ace of spades; pot now up to $396.

Guests:
Elsie Gaber (1000 Hills club)
Chloe Kelly (guest of Debi Boughton)

Make Up Meetings at 1000 Hills club - NE Regional Medical Center cafe (Thursdays at 7 a.m.) or North Star club - Wooden Nickel (Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m.)

Upcoming Programs:
March 22: Youth Recognition Banquet, TSU Activities Room 3200/beginning 6 p.m.
March 29: Muskie Fishing/Jodie Gordon & Lary Ciesemier
April 5: Zac Erwin/MU Extension Livestock Specialist