

Falls City seeks grant funds for creation of park

(KLZA)-- The Falls City Council approved submitting a revised application for a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant through the Nebraska Historic Preservation Office when they met Monday evening.

Originally the City sought a CCCFF grant to rehabilitate Prichard Auditorium in conjunction with creating a Falls City Recreation / Wellness Center. The State Historic Preservation Office determined the concept plans did not align with the Historical Preservation Standard. To access the funds, the facility has to go back to its original use.

The Falls City Creative District proposed submitting a new project, creating a new City Park in the 1500 block of Stone Street, which is currently an empty lot.

Falls City Chamber and Mainstreet Executive Amber Holle, who also serves on the Council, said developing this empty lot has been on the wish list of a number of entities.

The goal is to create an enhanced recreational, outdoor gathering space that can be utilized by multiple generations and serve as a welcoming spot for local residents and visitors to the community. Ideas include a venue for musical performances, various performing arts events, group exercise activities farmers markets and vendor exhibitions.

In order to qualify for a CCCFF grant, a community must have a dedicated Creative District to be a partner in seeking the grant. Nussbaum said there could be as much as \$562 thousand available in grant funds, requiring a 50-50 match.