

By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

- Leader & Times

After the USD 480 update by board president Delvin Kinser, there was only a couple more items on the agenda at Tuesday evening's city commission meeting.

City of Liberal Recreation Director William Weber explained that the recreation department has received funding from two private local foundations to upgrade the lighting grid at the recreation building.

This will include fixtures, wiring, components and ceiling tile. Installation will be provided by internal departments.

The donations total is \$6,235.



“This has been a several-year project,” he added. “And all the things we have done inside the rec center have been done through lots of donations from foundations and private citizens and outside groups.”

Weber also presented an item for a teen computer center in the recreation center.

“We are going to get some educational games. It’s not going to just be games on the computer that the kids can mess with, but on these we’re going to put a flair with learning.”

He noted that the department has received funding from a private local foundation to create a teen computer center.

This will include two desktop computer systems and installation will be provided by the city’s information technology department, he said.

Donations add up to a total of \$2,016.

Commissioner Joe Denoyer explained that the computer center offers a chance for kids to do their homework.

“This one thing I heard on the computers is that it’s a rec center, that the kids need to be outside running and playing.

“One thing I’ve tried to explain to the public is a lot of these kids come at 3:30, right after school,” Denoyer said. “You close at 6, and they are there the entire time. They go home to a home that possibly does not have Internet service.

“This would provide those kids an opportunity to work on homework, do homework, while they are there at the center. I think it’s a good addition to the rec center to bring that element,” Denoyer added.

Rec center upgrades

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Weber then said that besides being surprised by how many kids play inside, “you’d be surprised at how many kids go outside and are active. It’s really surprising – they’ll get the soccer ball, the football, basketballs, even when it’s cold, they’re out there playing.”

Approval to accept the grants passed 5 to 0.