By Carolyn Lee
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The city of Imperial Park and Tree Commission approved a plan to install new playground equipment at Campbell Park during a meeting Feb. 3. Of three options presented, one for $41,417.95 was approved.

Loren Block of Sterling West of Gothenburg, which specializes in playground equipment, presented the options.

The approved plan calls for leaving a swing set at the west play area near Campbell ball field, but adding infant seats in place of rings and a bar, which had to be removed for liability purposes, Park Board Chair Dianne Way said.

Other equipment ordered for that area includes a sand digger, which is a seat with a scoop to maneuver, and a “spinner,” which a small or large child can make spin with their body weight.

The plan also approves the purchase of an equipment cluster similar to the one in place north of the former swimming pool. The new equipment would be placed at the south end of the park, near the Lions Club picnic shelter.

The new equipment will include an “ant hill climber” climbing wall, as well as slides, a spider web, a “spinner,” a monkey bar and other climbing equipment.

The playground equipment near the former pool cannot be moved to another location, Block said, because it is heavily cemented in, and moving it would negate the warranty and could affect the integrity of the structure.

The city received a $10,000 Kiewit Foundation matching grant for part of the project. The city sales tax will contribute $15,000, while $10,000 was budgeted for the project in the ‘08-09 budget. An additional $5,000 still needs to be raised to complete the funding, Way said.

The board hopes to have the equipment installed the last week of March. Borders and surfacing will also need to be built. The equipment has already been ordered.

City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland said the council had previously given the park board the authority to approve the equipment.