

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

At its May meeting the Imperial Park and Tree Commission met with former Imperial resident Mike Smith, who is now the owner of Bay 198 in Lincoln, an indoor skate park.

He told the Commission that he'd like to see a skate park in Imperial, possibly at the site of the old swimming pool in Campbell Park.

Smith said he'd oversee the design and construction of the park, would host annual skate clinics and a skate contest for western Nebraska, and would assist by annually inspecting the skate park to ensure safety.

Smith is having his colleagues draft three different designs for a park, ranging in cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Certain requirements need to be met, but liability shouldn't be a concern, Smith told the board. Depending upon how the park is set up, insurance rates could increase \$500 to \$1,500 per year.

Commission member Carl Zuege said the group is waiting for designs and costs before further discussion is held.

City Administrator/Clerk Jo Leyland said funding of the park would either come from donations or community development funds.

Smith works with Skate for Change, a group advocating for youth and involved with the homeless population of Lincoln and elsewhere.