

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: September 9, 2015
Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Rick DeVore, Tom Rupsis, Catherine Grott, Dayton Rush, Lew Morris, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl, Rich Lorenz, Darwin George

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator



I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:35.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board Chair asked for a motion to approve the August 12, 2015 meeting minutes.

Board member Marcia Clausing made a motion to approve. Board member Catherine Grott seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Michael Whitaker said Park District 1 funding for FY16 will go before Council on September 14 for 2 million.

He said the case between home owners whose house was destroyed 5 years ago from a large boulder that fell from the rims and the city has been settled. The City won the case. Park Superintendent Jon Thompson was involved with the case as an advisor.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Pioneer Park Tennis Courts:

Mark Jarvis said the courts at Pioneer are completed. They are now seal coating the sidewalk around the court. He said the Billings Tennis Association has donated \$17,000 for lighting at Pioneer. Those should be installed sometime next month.

Mark said surfacing of the Castlerock courts will begin next Monday.

B. Heights Disc Golf Course:

Mark Jarvis said work started on the 26th. Thirty six sleeves have been installed and the fencing is in. Next will be to install the tea boxes and grate the parking lot. He said hopes are to open the course sometime this fall.

C. Yellowstone Kelly Interpretative Site:

Michael Whitaker said Sanderson Stewart is in the process of finishing the concept document. They will also due the construction document.

Michael asked for volunteers from the board to be on the design theme committee he is forming. Board member Marcia Clausing and Board Chair Rick DeVore offered to serve.

D. South Park Sprayground:

Mark Jarvis said we are working on the final reviews of the drawing. Should be going out to bid soon. Plans are to manufacture all of the parts this winter and then do the installation this spring with opening day on Memorial Day.

E. Trails End Playground:

Chris Waite said the installation of the new playground at Trails End Park went well. He said there were 180 volunteers that helped. The installation took about 6 hours to complete.

F. Centennial Park Master Plan:

Michael Whitaker said the master plan went before a council work session. He said discussion was mainly centered around the dog park. The plan will go back to Council on October 13th for final approval. He will be making a modified presentation.

A request was made to hold a special park board meeting September 22nd to discuss funding. The park board would like to start looking at other funding options right away.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Acquisition Adjacent to Cottonwood Park:

Michael Whitaker explained that School District 2 purchased 10 acres of land

adjacent to Cottonwood Park from the City/Parks Department. He said they have come back to us requesting they sell the acres back. Michael asked the board for action to recommend accepting the land back. ***Board member Darwin George made a motion to recommend to Council to accept School District 2's offer to sell the 10 acres of land adjacent to Cottonwood Park back to the City of Billings/Parks Department. Board member Tom seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed.***

B. Lampman Park:

Michael Whitaker said at a past park board meeting Lampman Park was brought up for discussion on whether to sell or keep the land.

Lampman Park is considered one of the departments most sellable properties. It would bring in around a half million if sold. City Council has already approved selling the property.

Board and staff have reconsidered now on whether to sell it.

Staff believes it would be cost effective to keep the property and develop it for the current high demand of sports fields. It would be considered a good site for soccer or lacrosse. Neighbors have already expressed they do not want an SID to develop it. Funds to develop it would have to come from other sources.

The park does have a master plan so one would not have to be created.

Michael asked the board for a recommendation on the property. ***Board member Tom Rupsis made a motion to recommend to City Council to not sale Lampman Park and to develop into sports fields. Board member Catherine Grott seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.***

Michael said Lampman will be brought back to Council to reconsider not selling it.

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson's report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

B. Park/Urban Forestry Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson's report was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

Volunteer Coordinator Chris Waite's report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

1:05 pm