

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: July 13, 2016
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Rick DeVore, Tom Rupsis, Dayton Rush, Lew Morris, Darwin George, Marcia Clausing

PRPL Staff Members:

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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:30 am

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Pat Weber, Finance Director

Kevin Howell, Representative for Verizon Wireless

Bill Cole, Billings Chamber of Commerce & Lawyer for Verizon Wireless

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes. Board member Marcia Clausing approved. Board member Lew Morris seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

A motion was made to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes. Board member Marcia Clausing approved. Board member Lew Morris seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

- The department is developing a Master Plan for Optimist Park. There will be a public meeting at the Boys and Girls Club adjacent to Optimist on August 11th at 7pm to discuss the plan.
- City Council has approved the funding to move a portion of the perimeter fencing at Dehler stadium. The new owners of the Mustangs would like to install a portable zip line. For us to accommodate for that, we need to move a portion of the fencing out to the sidewalk on the north side. The costs to do that would be a

little under \$11,000.

- City Council approved the resolution to name the larger field at Centennial Park, “Musburger Field”. A naming ceremony has been scheduled for on August 23rd. The time for the ceremony will be given out at a later time.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Cell Tower at Terry Park:

Kevin Howell from Verizon said the company is looking at adding approximately 12 new cell towers in Billings. They are proposing to install a tower at Terry Park to help in servicing that general area/neighborhood. He said they would like to place it on the existing Siren pole in the southeast corner of the park.

The board discussed Verizon’s proposed location and felt it would be more noticeable in that location and suggested placing it on top of the Fire Station (*with the Fire Departments approval*) in the far northwest corner of the park.

Michael Whitaker said he would speak with the Fire Department and hold a neighborhood public meeting in September before moving forward.

Rick DeVore said the board will look at taking action on the proposal at the October board meeting.

B. Swords Rimrock Park/Yellowstone Kelly’s Grave Safety Issues:

Safety concerns and ideas to help improve the situation are as follows:

- Rick DeVore said it was suggested by a former council member to use retired police officers and make them as some sort of ranger(s) with authority to patrol the area at various times of the day.
- Look into increasing Park District 1 funding to have off duty police monitor the area.
- Install a solar powered gate with key pad entry into the gravesite so that it would automatically lock and unlock with daylight hours.
- Install cameras at the grave site.
- Eliminate the road leading up to gravesite and put a lock down at the bottom. (There was great concern with this idea because it would restrict less able bodied people access.)

Due to time restraint staff and board will continue discussing Swords Park issues and Yellowstone Kelly’s Interpretive Site at an upcoming board meeting.

Update on Yellowstone Kelly’s Interpretive Site-Bill Cole said are close to being finished with fundraising. They expect to go out for bid on the construction sometime in late August early September. The design element is done.

Jon Thompson said the department is looking at installing an additional gate at the bottom of the hill to keep people out during the construction and possibly for future security. Bill said they will also be installing cameras on the

communication towers just west of the site. It will be live streaming.

C. Funding Undeveloped Parkland:

Discussion on funding for undeveloped parkland will go before City Council at the September 6th work session.

Pat Weber, City's Finance Director gave the various costs scenarios:

1. 20 years at 5% interest; \$15 million dollars' worth of bond proceeds; the debt service payment for 20 years is \$1.35 million dollars a year.
Assessment on a \$200,000 home would be \$20.41. A GO bond would be the same thing.
2. If you do \$5 million an annual debt service payment over 20 years is \$450,000 and on a \$200,000 home it would be \$60.80
3. A \$2 million an annual debt service payment over 20 years is \$180,000 and on a \$200,000 home it would be \$2.73.

Pat said he would also do a 3^{1/2} % scenario and get that information back to staff and board.

The board will decide their recommended option (*Options were discussed at the June board meeting*) at next month's board meeting. Their recommendation will be presented to Council for approval.

D. Billings Softball Agreement:

The Billings Softball agreement will be up for renewal next year. The Park Board has asked to begin the process of updating the agreement with staff, giving their suggestions on what changes they feel are needed. Those items are as follows:

- Contract seems too long. Shorten it up a bit.
- There is nothing under concessions regarding alcohol. There should be something added regarding it.
- The naming issue should be rewritten. We have a naming policy now and it should be included.
- There should be annual reports to the city. Jon Thompson did mention that he and Park Supervisor Mike Pigg do meet with the BSA at least 3-4 times per year to discuss things.

Michael said there are plans for staff and the BSA to meet and discuss the agreement prior to next season. Rick asked for staff to bring back a revised agreement for the park board to review prior to presenting it to Council for approval.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed McCall Development:

Michael Whitaker said the McCall Development Incorporated (McCall family) has recently come to the City, asking to donate their portion of Norms Island to us.

Jon Thompson explained that Norms Island, which is located at Riverfront Park, is owned by three organizations; the City of Billings which owns 21 acres, the

State of Montana which owns 78 acres and the McCall's who own 29.11 acres. Jon said the portion of Norms that belongs to the State is leased to us along with 2 other areas of land at Riverfront. He explained also that we manage both the State land/lease portion and our portion.

A board member asked why the McCall family is wanting to donate the land. Michael said they have expressed that they no longer wish to pay the assessments on the property.

Another board member asked if we would have to pay the assessments. Jon said yes, and that we already pay assessments on city owned parkland. Michael said the department would have to ask for a supplemental budget request to increase our budget to pay for the additional assessments.

Michael said the other reason the McCall family wanted to donate the land to us is because they would like it to stay as parkland. They are concerned if we do not except it, it might turn into something that no one really wants. The land is in flood plain so it cannot be built on.

Michael asked for the board to give their recommendation to accept McCall's request to donate their portion of Norms Island to the City of Billings/Parks and Recreation Department. Board member Dayton Rush approved the motion. Board member Tom Rupsis seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson's report was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. A copy of the report is in the 2016 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 2016 board binder. Jon added the following;

- Due to the warmer weather, the department has had to bump up their watering operations by 150% in several areas. Our water budget will be way over this June.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis report was sent out to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2016 board binder. Mark was not at the meeting so Michael Whitaker touched on a few of his current projects. Those project updates are:

- City Council approved Monday night the contract with Pros to assist us in developing our Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan.
- City Council also approved Monday night the contract with CTA to move forward on developing a concept for the new Rose pool bathhouse operation

center. The goal is to have the new facility ready for operation at the start of next year's pool season.

- We will be going out shortly to rebid on the South splash pad.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

Volunteer Coordinator Chris Waite's report was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. A copy of the report is in the 2016 board binder. No additions to his report.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller report was sent out to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2016 board binder. In addition to his report he said section 12 of the cemetery is now up and running. He said 2 grave sites have already been purchased.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - 1:25 pm