

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE September 14, 2016
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Dayton Rush, Rich Lorenz, Lew Morris, Tom Rupsis, Darwin George
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator
Triniti Halverson, Senior Services Specialist

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Ferguson, Billings Gazette

Triniti Halverson has been hired as the new Senior Services Specialist. She has replaced Robin Grinsteiner who had worked for the department over 40 years as the Senior and Community Center Director and Recreation Supervisor. Triniti is from Billings. She has a degree in Public Health and spent the last five years working as a health educator at MSU-Billings.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the August 17, 2016 minutes. Board member Tom Rupsis approved. Board member Lew Morris seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

- Nothing to report.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Funding Undeveloped Parkland:

Update: The PRC Board gave their presentation on funding undeveloped parkland to City Council at the September 6th work session. Council expressed mixed reviews. Based on their comments, City Administrator Tina Volek said she will develop a few options to present back to them for their feedback. She indicated that once they have given their reaction to those options, she will bring that information to the Park Board and they can decide how to proceed.

B. Animal Control Ordinance:

Update: To date only 3,342 licenses have been sold since January 1. As per Council, 10,000 licenses must be sold before the ordinance to allow Dogs off leash in City Parks will go into effect.

C. Update on Projects That Are Underway or Completed:

Michael gave a presentation on the current projects and plans underway or completed within the department. They are listed below:

- Yellowstone Kelly's Interpretative Site-plans and design specifications are complete. Bids have gone out. Work will begin later this year.
- Cell Tower at Terry Park – the first neighborhood meeting will be in October.
- Install South Park Sprayground-should be ready to use in the spring of 2017.
- Build Rose Pool Operations Building-plans are to have it built for use next year. The current building was damaged by an arson fire earlier this year.
- Working on creating a PRPL Comprehensive Plan.
- Negotiations are underway on renewing the agreement with the Mustangs. Several meeting with the new owners of the Mustangs have taken place already. Future meetings are in the works.
- Working on upgrading the irrigation system at Veteran's Park.
- Discussing and updating the agreement with the Amend Development Council
- Currently working on a Master Plan for Optimist Park
- Kiosk for Swords Park has been built. Currently waiting on the graphics.
- Improving the Community Center Parking Lot by adding addition parking.
- Replace Hawthorne playground equipment-using LWCF grant to assist with funding this project.
- Replacing the tile in one of the men's restrooms at Dehler. Will also be moving the perimeter fencing to accommodate a zip line.
- Recently hired a Senior Services Specialist and will begin advertising for the Forester position.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Optimist Park Master Plan:

The Master Plan is underway for Optimist Park. Staff met with user groups,

stakeholders, and area residents to review 3 concepts presented by the consultants. Those concepts ranged from minimal to large scale designs. From the comments generated by all the groups and public the minimal concept was preferred. This concept will only enhance the current amenities and generate additional parking areas. The added or enhanced amenities include a large shelter with electricity, an adult exercise area, enhanced play structures, shade structures such as shade sails, additional sidewalks/trails through the park, interpretive signage, new canopy trees and new tee ball field.

Plans are to hold another public meeting on September 22nd at 6PM at the Boys and Girl Club to review the preferred concept. The concept will then be brought back to the Park Board before going to Council for final approval. The estimated cost to do the master plan design concept will be around \$1-1.5 million.

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

In addition to his report, Kory said summer enrollment was up in recreation programs. This was the best year yet for pool revenue but attendance was down from previous years. The strike zone also had a good year. Attendance to the Dog Days of Summer at Rose pool was up from the previous year. Plans are to make this an annual event. Fifty more kids registered for flag football this year than last year.

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

In addition to his report, Jon said staff is still in the busy summer mode with mowing, irrigating, shelter rentals and special events. Half of the park seasonal staff will be taken off payroll at the end of September. Due to the recent rattlesnake bits to dogs at High Sierra, signs are being made and put up at the park. Additional warning signs will be put up at Swords due to reports of snakes there.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

No additions to his report.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

No additions to his report.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

No additions to his report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - 1:00 pm