

## MEETING MINUTES

**RECORDED BY:** Melonie Trang

**MEETING PURPOSE:** PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:** October 12, 2016  
Community Center



**ATTENDEES:** PRC Board Members:  
Rick DeVore, Catherine Grott, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl, 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  
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator

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### I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:32 am

#### A. INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Ferguson, Billings Gazette

Natural Resource Damage Program representatives: Doug Marton and Alicia Stickney

Park Recreation and Preservation Foundation representatives: Al Koelzer, John Fekety, Rachel Cox, Jeffrey Winkler and Todd Gainan.

#### B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

*A motion was made to approve the September 14, 2016 minutes. Board member Lew Morris approved. Board member Tom Rupsis seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.*

#### C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Yellowstone River Oil Spill Restoration Plan

### II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

- Michael had nothing to report but he did ask Jon and his guests from the Natural Resource Damage Program-Fish Wildlife and Parks to speak on the Yellowstone River oil spill. (*see below under new business*)

### III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

## IV. OLD BUSINESS

### A. 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:

- Bids for the South Park Sprayground are due October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The plans and design specifications contract for the Yellowstone Kelly's Interpretative Site was awarded by City Council on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Our consultant working on the PRPL Comprehensive Plan met with the Planning Commission on September 27<sup>th</sup> to go over the process to develop the plan.
- All of our parks and facilities are in the process of being evaluated. We should have an updated list of deferred maintenance project for FY18.
- Our needs assessment survey will be mailed out the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- City Council approved to delay our Park District 1 FY17 capital projects to move forward on the construction of the operations and bathhouse buildings at Rose pool.

***Rose Pool bathhouse and operations building concept design information:***

- ✚ ***There will be 2 separate buildings. One is considered the "cold" building and the other the "warm" building.***
- ✚ ***Located in the "cold" building will be the locker room, family change room, plumbing, chase storage, and outdoor lockers and showers. Total exterior footage is 1875 sq. ft.***
- ✚ ***Located in the "warm" building will be the mechanical room, storage room, park restroom, plumbing chase, multi-purpose room, snack bar, guard-first aid, cashier and manager's area and a BBQ space (located outside). Total exterior footage is 2483 sq. ft. This building can be used year-round.***
- ✚ ***A walkway will be between both buildings.***
- ✚ ***It will be made of cinder block.***
- ✚ ***The buildings will be ADA accessible.***
- ✚ ***We are working with CTA on the design concept.***

The total square footage for both buildings is basically the same square footage as the current building.

Currently we are in the process of getting quotes for the demolition of the current building. We hope to start phase one, which is the demolition, in the next couple of weeks. Phase two is the construction aspect and we should have bids out and contracts by January 1, 2017. Completion should be done by opening day of the pools.

- Veteran's Park irrigation construction should be complete in November.
- Negotiations are still 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. Once an agreement has been put together, it will be brought back to the park board for review.

- Kiosk for Swords Park is built and the graphics are complete.
- In the next couple weeks, we will have a contractor coming in to replace the tile in the men's restrooms at Dehler. We also hope to have the perimeter fence moved in the next month to accommodate for a zip line.
- Demolition of the 5 houses across the street has begun to make way for the Community Center Parking Lot improvements.
- We were awarded the LWCF grant for \$125,000 to assist in purchasing playground equipment for Hawthorne Park.
- Cell Tower at Terry Park – the first neighborhood meeting should be held at the end of this month.
- The Optimist Master Plan is close to being completed. It should be ready for the board to review in November.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Yellowstone River Oil Spill Restoration Plan:**

In 2011, ExxonMobil's pipeline ruptured near Laurel MT causing crude oil to release into the Yellowstone River and floodplain. Approximately 87 miles of river and floodplain were affected including Riverfront Park. The oil from the spill caused harm to fish, birds, wildlife, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Representatives from the Natural Resource Damage Program, Doug Marton and Alicia Stickney came to discuss the restoration plans and project types to be undertaken on the Yellowstone River and in related areas. There is approximately \$12 million in allocated funds for these projects and should become available as early as 2017. Riverfront has around \$2.4 million for recreation area improvements, Urban pond rehabilitation, nature trails and develop and improve boat launch sites.

A public meeting is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fish Wildlife and Park conference room to discuss key components of the restoration plans. Oral comments from the public will be taken at that time.

Fish Wildlife and Parks will continue to communicate and work with the department concerning the plans for Riverfront Park.

### **B. Billings Parks, Recreation and Preservation Foundation:**

The foundation was created to assist in fundraising to preserve and develop public parks, open space and recreational facilities in the City of Billings. The foundation is a 501©3 public foundation. Over the years the foundations projects have included the Moss Mansion, Yellowstone Kelly's Gravesite, High Sierra Dog Park, Arbor Day Events, Community Songbird Park, and the PRPL Youth Scholarship Fund.

Rick DeVore expressed that the park board would like to see about partnering with the foundation on raising funds and giving support for future park projects. It was suggested to do a brainstorm session with the foundation at next month's board meeting.

**C. Amend Park Agreement:**

Michael said the department met with the Amend Park Development Council on October 4<sup>th</sup> to start discussing the turn-key agreement for next year. He said they hope to have a draft of the agreement at the December board meeting.

**D. Billings Community Conversations:**

Michael said there are plans to hold 4 Community Conversation sessions tentatively scheduled at the end of October. This year's topics for discussion are: *Should dogs be on leash in city parks? & Should Park District 1 funds be used to build parks?*

**VII. DIVISION REPORTS**

**A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:**

In addition to his report, Kory said fall is going great. Staff is getting ready for winter programs. Senior Services Specialist Triniti Halverson is working hard on the Community Senior Center side. They will be having their first open house on October 21<sup>st</sup>, board is welcome to attend.

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

No additions to his report.

**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 - 1:18 pm**