

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: March 15, 2017
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Rick DeVore, Lew Morris, Rich Lorenze, Jim Ronquillo, Chuck Platt

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:34 am

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Bill Cole, Billings Chamber
Claudia Morgan, Bill Ellis and Wade Gilsdorf, City Residents

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes. Board member Jim Ronquillo approved. Board member Lew Morris seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Michael publicly thanked Rick DeVore and Lew Morris for attending the recent Council meeting where City Council approved the Amend Park agreement.

He said the Mustangs agreement is currently being fine tuned and some minor changes have been done. There are plans to schedule another meeting with the owner of the Mustangs in the coming weeks to discuss those changes.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Terry Park Cell Tower:

Cell Tower Information:

- Proposed location for the tower is near the Fire Station on 6th and Miles, on the right front side of the building.
- The cell tower agreement would be between the City of Billings and Verizon wireless.
- There would be a 15' wide hard surface access & utility easement to the tower.
- A 30x50 fence would surround the tower. Fence would be 6' tall wood materials.
- The tower would be 50' tall, with 3 clusters of 4 antennas, each antenna is approximately 1x8 similar to other towers in the city. It will also include a siren on top. The color and look of tower is optional.
- Inside the fenced area would also include 3 outdoor cabinets 3x3x6 and electric generator.
- Service area is only ½ - ¾ mile radius from Terry Park.
- Projected revenue is between \$10,000-\$12,000 a year. The contract is about 20 plus years.
- The site would be accessed monthly and as needed for routine maintenance. Jon Thompson said the irrigation system would have to be moved to install the tower and compound. There would be ongoing maintenance of weed eating and mowing around it.

Public Meeting:

- A neighborhood information meeting was held on March 7th.
- Residents' concerns were; the look of the tower, reduced usable space for residents to use for activities, children climbing into the fenced area and being injured, increase park maintenance, and visual clutter and pollution.
- Residents believed the revenue source would be good and wanted to see the revenues put back into Terry Park. They also expressed the need for more cell power coverage.
- Residents wanted to see; the compound footprint decreased, the pole look more like a tree instead and if there would be other locations in the area that could be used instead.
- Technology is advancing so fast, that the might not be needed.

Board's Comments:

- Felt the money would be a good funding source for the department.
- Wanted to see if there would be other locations outside of the park that would be available to use; such as Broadwater School or the former Catholic School.
- Wanted to see if it could be located differently in the park.
- Wanted to see if the compound could be smaller.
- Concern of children or sports balls getting into the compound. Put a

covering of some sort to prevent children or balls coming into the compound.

- Look at changing the design of the tower and compound.
- Board members liked the idea of it to be an additional funding source but were concerned that the money would be put into the general fund. Jon Thompson said the department has a specific account not part of the general fund that is setup for cell tower revenue. He said any revenue funds can be place into that account.
- Wanted to see that if the tower is no longer needed that Verizon would be the ones to remove it.

Additional Comments:

- From the recent City-wide survey, 39% of Billings households think cell towers should be allowed in public parks as a way to generate revenue. Only 15% strongly agreed with allowing cell towers in public parks as a way to generate revenue.

The board wanted the following items addressed before making a final decision:

- Different colors of tower, color coordinated to the environment and fabricate a tree tower.
- Different locations
- Changing the plans; widening the sidewalk, small footprint, cover

The board agreed to postpone making any decision until the March board

B. Update on Projects that are Underway:

- We finally received the signed agreement from the State for the LWCF grant to replace the playground at Hawthorne Park. The awarded amount is for \$125,000. The playground should be completed sometime this fall.
- Veterans automated irrigation project should be complete soon.
- South Park spray ground is moving forward. We hope have an estimated completion date to be this summer.
- We are currently tweaking the design aspect of the Rose Pool bathhouse/operations building. We are planning to go out for bid in July with the demolition and construction this fall.
- Yellowstone Kelly Interpretative site construction project has started up again. The project should be complete this June.
- The Comprehensive Plan-key findings have gone before the Council, Planning Board, Chamber Board and the public. Staff will be meeting again with PROS in March. Hope to have this project completed this summer.
- The new Kiosk at Swords will be installed will be installed in the next few weeks.
- The fencing project at Dehler is moving forward. Plans are to move the northside fence to accommodate for a zip line.
- Currently working on hiring a consultant to work on the Master Plan for Poly Vista Park. The top pick was Land Design. Landon's Legacy Foundation will be funding this project.
- Recreation staff is working on the summer brochure. It should be finished

today. It will come out April 1st. Staff is also updating our software system to be ready for the summer online registration season.

- The batting cages will be opening the first of April.

VII. DIVISION UPDATES:

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

No additions to his written report.

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

In addition to his report, Jon said staff has started turning on water at several of our park locations.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

No additions to his report.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

In addition to his report, Chris said there are several volunteer projects that will be getting underway this weekend.

A second garden “Songbird Garden” has been opened in the Josephine Crossing Subdivision. Both gardens are filling up fast. Chris said the Community garden has only four spots left and Songbird is over half-way filled.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

No additions to his report.

VIII. AJOURNMENT - 1:10 pm