

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE May 9, 2018
AND LOCATION: Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Mark Wahl, Tom Rupsis, Tim Warburton, Chuck Platt, Jim Ronquillo, Clark Johnson



PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator
Park Officer Nick Lam

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chair Tom Rupsis called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Bill Cole
Animal Control Supervisor, Tom Stinchfield

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Email was sent by Clark Johnson to discuss Pickleball. This item will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

Email was sent by Chuck Platt to give an update on the Billings Senior Citizens Inc. Item will be discussed under "Directors Report".

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Jim Ronquillo approved the April 11, 2018 minutes. Board member Clark Johnson seconded. On a voice vote, all approved.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

- Michael reported that the situation between the City and the Billings Senior Citizens Inc. is currently being handled by the city's Administration and is in arbitration/mediation.
- The department's budget presentation will be going before City Council on June 4th. The presentation will include funding for park development and the first phase in developing Centennial Park which includes asking for a million from the

general fund reserves, million dollars increase from PD1 and to use the Cash-in-lieu funds that are privy to that park.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

Mayor Bill Cole made a comment for the support from the Park board at the Park and Recreation Budget presentation to City Council on June 4th. Mr. Cole suggested if they have not already done so, to meet with council member prior to the meeting to discuss park development funding. He also pointed out 3 critical issues that could affect the use of the city reserves for the park development funding if the department plans to present the city reserve options at the budget meeting. Those issues were; removal of the excise fee on the sewer/water bills (this brought in about 2 million into the general fund), possibility of another public safety mill levy for Fire and Police and costs involved in consolidating city staff into one building possibly purchasing 1 or 2 floors at the Stillwater building.

Board member Clark Johnson asked why staff has a Code of Conduct sign up in Community and Senior Center. He felt it was an attack on the seniors. Michael Whitaker said the Code of Conduct sign is up for all individuals who walk through the doors including seniors, general public, transients, etc. Those rules were modeled after the Library's Code of Conduct and were approved by the City's Human Resource and Legal Departments.

Clark asked if we had a problem with transients harassing our seniors. Michael said yes we do.

Clark expressed that he felt the sign was directed at the seniors specifically the Senior Inc. Michael said no, it was designed to protect the seniors and to protect individuals using our services from being harassed.

Jim Ronquillo also commented that the South Side Senior Center also has similar signs up regarding codes of conduct/rules and regulations. He felt these rules do not discriminate.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Animal Control Ordinance Update:

Animal Control Supervisor, Tom Stinchfield said the animal control ordinance for dogs on leash in city parks went into effect in February of 2017. Since the ordinance went into effect, they have received 107 service calls regarding dogs in parks. Those calls were mainly on dogs at large, dog attack, etc. He said there has been no major issues such fights, dog attacks but they have struggled with the confusion/enforcement over what is considered service/emotional stress animals in the area of sporting events, parks (Amend/Stewart) and fields.

Mr. Stinchfield added that he has met with the Park seasonal staff and handed out their direct contact information so if they seeing something in the park relating to dogs/animals, they can contact them.

B. Park Projects Update and Ribbon Cuttings:

- The new Rose building will be ready to open for the season. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for June 4th. Further information regarding

the ceremony will be sent out later.

- Had the South Park sprayground up and running last week. The aquatic consultant recently came into town to inspect the sprayground. We will not officially open the sprayground until we have heard back from the aquatic consultant.
- Optimist parking lot is currently being held up due to the amount of moisture we have received this last winter and current spring. The base soil is saturated causing us to not get the compaction we need for the blacktop.
- We have received the Hawthorne playground equipment. To save our costs, our staff has removed the old playground equipment. We do plan to hire a company to come out and install the new equipment.
- The South Urban Renewal district will be asking for City Council to approve funding for the playground replacement equipment Optimist Park.
- We have applied for a \$50,000 grant for Rose playground equipment replacement.

VII. DIVISION UPDATES:

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

Highlights from the written Recreation staff report;

- Had a fantastic April
- Camps are full, waiting lists have started
- Looking for a busy month ahead
- Busy trying to get people hired. Have about 50 lifeguards hired so far.
- All recreation staff are certified aquatic facility operators. Mike Pigg stated that several of his staff also got certified
- Batting cages are up and running.
- Senior new newsletter is out. Mailed out to over 1,000 recipients.
- Getting ready for the Senior Sports and Arts festival
- Senior scholarship program is up and running
- Enrolled 9 new volunteers at the Community Senior Center
- Annual Community Senior Center open house May 30th

B. Park/Urban Forestry Division – Interim Park Superintendent Mike Pigg:

Highlights from the written Parks and Forestry staff report;

- Irrigation systems are still coming online. We are a month behind when we normally start.
- All restrooms are open now. They open at 6am and the last restrooms close around 8-10pm
- Tree planting season for our forestry staff
- Arbor Day was one of the best we have ever had

C. Park Planning Division – Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Mark had nothing to add to written report.

D. Volunteer Coordinator Report – Chris Waite:

In addition to his written report, Chris touched on the following:

- Arbor Day was one of our largest ever totaling between 700-800 people involved.
- We had skilled people come in and remove several trees
- We had around 24 booths participating
- We connected with the Optimist Club. They provided lunch and also spoke at the ceremony. They talked about returning to next years event.

E. Park Patrol Report – Officer Nick Lam

- North Park is doing well; getting good users in the park
- Citations have increase but arrests have decreased
- The graffiti effort is doing well

F. Cemetery Division – Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Nothing was added to his written report.

VIII. AJOURNMENT – 12:30 pm

(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)