

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: June 13, 2018
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Rick DeVore, Tim Warburton, Tom Rupsis, Jim Ronquillo, Chuck Platt, Rich Lorenze, Mark Wahl, Lew Morris, Clark Johnson

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

A. INTRODUCTIONS

None

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the May 9, 2018 minutes was postponed until the June board meeting.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

- Michael reported the proposed cell tower agreement for Terry Park is currently in the Fire Stations hands as it relates to working out the logistics.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Project Update:

Michael gave an update on the current projects.

- ❖ Thanks to the Parks and Recreation staff, we have new Rose pool facility up and running. Parks staff has done the landscaping around and inside the facility area. This has helped in saving costs for this project.

- ❖ Southside splash pad is complete. There will be a ribbon cutting this coming Friday, June 15th. A student from the Friendship House will be cutting the ribbon.
- ❖ Optimist Park parking lot project is at a stand still due to the high moisture content from all the rain we have been receiving. Waiting for it to dry out.
- ❖ All of the old playground equipment at Hawthorne has been removed. The equipment has arrived. Hope to have it installed sometime this month.
- ❖ SUBRA has purchased the playground equipment for Optimist Park. City Council has approved the purchase.
- ❖ Chris Waite has written a grant for the purchase of playground equipment at Rose Park. We have received tentative approval on that. It is for \$150,000.
- ❖ We are moving forward on all FY18 projects

B. Park Development Request:

Several Park Board members along with individuals from the Big Sky Development group, and Friends of Billings Dog Parks attended the June 4th PRPL FY19 proposed budget presentation to City Council. Board members were present to give comment on their support of the department and their proposal to add additional funding for park development to the budget. The Board expressed coming away from the meeting uncertain and confused based on council's response as to whether they are supportive of the additional funding. Rick asked what the next step was. Michael said there are two more opportunities for the board to get their funding request proposal included in the FY19 budget. There is a council work session on June 18th. At that time, City Council will be reviewing all proposed additional items to go in the budget. They can give staff the direction to include it at the 18th meeting but they would still have to vote on it, on the 25th. He said if council does not give staff direction on the 18th, then a council member on the 25th would have to make a motion to add the proposal to the budget.

Rick encouraged the board to attend the June 18th work session and ask council to include the proposed additional park development funding in the PRPL FY19 budget. He said the proposal is only asking for a small amount of additional money.

Board member Jim Ronquillo commented that we need to go before council and let them know we have not built any new parks since 1982, tell/show them what we have done with the funds from PD1 and grants and that we need some extra financial help so we can create a place/community that people like to live in.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pickleball:

Mike Pigg gave an overview on pickleball in our area.

- ❖ Billings currently has 6 tennis courts that are stripped for pickleball; 1 at North, 1 at CastleRock, 3 at Lillis and 1 at Grams court in Rehberg Ranch
- ❖ Other locations within the city that offer pickleball courts include; YMCA

MSU-B, Elks Club and North Park Center

- ❖ The tennis courts at Pioneer park were designed for championship tennis. When there is a championship going on, no other marks are to be on the courts unless they are ghost lines.
- ❖ We hold USTA sanctioned events throughout the year at our courts. Those are Billings Tennis Association events, Junior tournaments, Big Sky States Games, and Montana State High School Association. These all have to be played on courts without any additional stripping.
- ❖ The tennis courts at Pioneer (all courts), Central and CastleRock are all USTA sanctioned courts and cannot have the extra stripping for pickleball.
- ❖ In the 2019 CIP is when the Central Park tennis courts are due for upgrade. At that time, we will look at adding pickleball stripping/markings.

Board member Clark mentioned that he would like to see more Pickleball courts due to the increase in individuals playing and the lack of enough pickleball courts open to play on.

Michael said we are looking at adding additional pickleball courts including the possibility at South Park, but it all comes down to funding and resources.

It was suggested for the local pickleball groups get together and look at raising funding to install additional pickleball courts and/or add stripping at some of the current tennis courts that are not used for sanctioned games.

Mike said there is the option for pickleball users to use the sanctioned courts and that is to use a special outdoor removable tape that can put down but then removed following a game. He said pickleball users can also bring their own net and tool to lower the nets.

VIII. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

Highlights from the written Recreation staff report;

- We are up and running. Have enough seasonal staff.
- Enrollment is excellent
- Camps are full
- Sports camp started this week
- Wading pools are open. We do staff these pools.
- Working on punch line items for the Rose buildings

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

Highlights from the written Parks and Forestry staff report;

- Today is the first day we are able to turn the irrigation systems on. We usually start turning around April 15th.
- We were full staffed at 54 seasonals. We did lose a restroom opener/closer.
- We planted fruit trees at Rose and Lillis park. The Rotary Club and Girl Scouts help plant the trees. The fruit from the trees will be available to the community to enjoy.
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C. Park Planning Division – Park Planner Mark Jarvis:
No additions to his report

D. Volunteer Coordinator Report – Chris Waite:
In addition to his written report, Chris touched on the following:

- We received preliminary approval from the state for the LWCF \$150,000 playground grant for Rose.
- We received grants for the strider bike course at Trials End Park. Total of those two grants comes to \$3,000 between the two of them.
- Part of the funding for the edible tree forest at Rose and Lillis was from a \$4,000 Lucky's Market grant along with a generous discount from Good Earth Works.

E. Park Patrol Report – Officer Nick Lam
No report

F. Cemetery Division – Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:
No additions to his report

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 12:30 pm

(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)