

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE July 11, 2018
AND LOCATION: Rose Pool Operation Building



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Tom Rupsis, Tim Warburton, Chuck Platt, Lew Morris, Rich Lorenze, Clark Johnson

PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Manager

Planning Staff Members:
Elyse Monat, Alternative Modes Coordinator

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

A. INTRODUCTIONS

John Shelhamer, Al Koezer, Marcia Clausing, Sue Bressler, Rachel Cox, John Fekety, Pat Davies

City Council member, Denise Joy

Elyse Monat was introduced from the City's Planning Department as an added city staff member to the board. She will be attending the meetings to give updates on the planning side of park development.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Tim Warburton approved the May 9, 2018 minutes. Board member Rich Lorenze seconded. On a voice vote, all approved.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

No report

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

Verizon Cell Tower at Terry Park: Progress on the tower is still moving forward. The city's Fire Chief is working with Verizon engineers on the look of the tower.

Rick asked if Michael if the Fire Chief could attend next month's board meeting to discuss the tower. Michael said yes.

Board member Tom Rupsis asked for an update on the Senior Citizen Inc. Michael said the City Administrator is currently doing an internal discussion on how to move forward.

Staff made mention that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hawthorne playground equipment. The date has not been set yet. This playground is the first inclusive playground in Billings for children with disabilities.

Michael said the department has partnered with the Big Sky Economic Development to do a master plan for Coulson Park. He stated that they have raised the funding to do the master plan. The department hopes to move forward on that plan in the near future.

Board member Tim Warburton asked if discussion on the Dehler ballpark committee would be added to the agenda at an upcoming board meeting. Michael said yes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rose Pool Operations and Bathhouse Building Tour:

Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson and Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave a tour of the Rose pool operations and bathhouse building(s).

B. Pirtz Field Improvements:

John Shelhamer of Billings American Legion Baseball spoke for upgrades to install synthetic grass at Pirtz Field in Stewart Park. Funding for this project will come from fundraising through Legion Baseball. Plans are to begin installation of the grass around first part of October. The new grass should last between 10-15 years.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Development:

Council has approved 2.2 million from the City reserves and cash-in-lieu funding to begin the development of Centennial Park.

Rick

A master plan has been already developed for the park.

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave a timeline for its development.

- Request for proposal will go out July 13th
- The RFP is due July 30th
- A selection committee will meet August 6th
- Final project scope due August 13th

- Council approve consultant contract August 27th
- Notice to proceed September 13th
- Start construction next spring

Dog Park committee members Marcia Clausing and Sue Bressler spoke on their support of Billings Dog Parks. Marcia and Sue were both involved in the development of High Sierra Dog park and have expressed their support in developing a dog park at Centennial. They spoke on reviving the dog park committee. Marcia and Sue explained that due to no new development of dog parks, committee members lost interest and it fell apart. They said Friends of Billings Dog Parks currently has funds it has raised over the years that can be used for developing the Centennial Dog Park.

VIII. DIVISION UPDATES:

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

In addition to his written report, Kory add the following:

- Half way through summer
- Over 200 kids enrolled in next week's summer programs
- Dog Days at the pool is August 19th

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

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

- Park staff did a fantastic job on the landscaping around the Rose Park pool buildings
- Staff assisted with the Hawthorne playground project

C. Park Planning Division – Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

In addition to his report, Mark was asked about any changes to Phipps now that it has been annexed into the city. Mark said he does not see any changes done at this time other than a little more efficiency when it comes to law enforcement because they have jurisdiction and also the Fire Department has authority to close it off during the 4th/fire danger.

A question was asked if Phipps could be used for off leash dogs. Michael said it is something we could explore.

D. Volunteer Coordinator Report – Chris Waite:

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

- In June there were 251 volunteers who worked on various projects throughout the city
- Doing a Balance Bike Course at Trails End Park. Funding for this project is from a grant.

A question was asked if it would be possible to put a community garden on the westend. Chris said yes, but after we are no longer managing Songbird (community) garden. This should happen after this year.

E. Park Patrol Report – Officer Nick Lam

No report this month

F. Cemetery Division – Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Nothing was added to his written report.

IX. AJOURNMENT – 12:45 pm

(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)