

# MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE July 10, 2019  
AND LOCATION: Rose Pool Operations Building

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:  
Tim Warburton, Chuck Platt, Lew Morris, Mark Wahl, Jim Ronquillo, Thom MacLean



PRPL Staff Members:  
Mike Whitaker, Director  
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent  
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent  
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner

Planning Staff Members:  
Elyse Monat, Alternative Modes Coordinator

City Administrator:  
Chris Kukulski

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## I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice-chair Tim Warbutron called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

### A. INTRODUCTIONS

City Council member Denise Joy  
Eden Sowards of Riverstone Health

### B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Board member Jim Ronquillo approved the April 17 2019 minutes. Board member Thom MacLean seconded. On a voice vote, all approved.*

## II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Michael reported that board member Rich Lorenze has resigned from the board due to a job change. He expressed that Rich will be missed from the board.

## III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

Council member Denise Joy brought up the concern addressed to City Council regarding the recovery/long term costs for the building and maintaining of a new recreation center

on the south side of Billings.

Board member Chuck Platt thanked the Mike Pigg and the Park staff for doing the road work down at Lake Josephine and up at the Rims.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Tour of Rose Pool Facilities:**

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

### **B. Monthly Reports:**

Michael said city-wide staff will no longer be doing a monthly but instead a quarterly report. He said this means the staff monthly board report will be given quarterly instead.

### **C. Proposed Land Swap with School District 2 (SD2):**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis discussed with the board, 3 parcels of city land and one parcel of SD2 land to be considered for land trade between SD2 and the city. The four parcels locations are:

- City land: next to Beartooth Elementary, Career Center and Rose Park (5 acres total)
- SD2 land: next to CastleRock Park (5 acres total)

The proposed land swap has been taken to the SD2 school board. Currently, waiting on their reaction.

The cost comparative shows the land swap to be an equal trade between the city and SD2.

*Vice-chair Tim asked for the boards action on the proposed land swap. Board member Lew Morris approved making a recommendation to City Council for their approval to swap land between the City of Billings and School District 2. Board member Jim Ronquillo seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed.*

Mark said he is not sure when the proposal will go before City Council. We are waiting to hear back from SD2.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Centennial Park Development Update:**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave an update on Centennials development.

- City Council has approved the FY20 budget; can complete the parking lot, and exterior
- Plan is to plant trees in the dog park first. This is to help with buffering neighbors to any dogs barking. The city forester along with the volunteer coordinator are working together on projects to build a city arboretum at the park. Trees will be on the inside of the sidewalk
- Public Works has assisted us in getting water to the parks

A question was asked regarding getting a crossing area on 32<sup>nd</sup> street west. Mark said staff will need to speak with Public Works

### **VIII. DIVISION UPDATES:**

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

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

- Had an all-time high in revenues at the start of the season
- Great year with City League basketball; we get over 70 teams each year
- Seeing a dramatic increase in our tennis program
- Increase in youth basketball program
- Senior programing is up
- We had a good fiscal year

Kory thanked his staff including the newest member to the team, Chris Martin is the new Recreation Specialist. He also thanked Dawn Marie the Aquatics Director, Tim Ottman who has been with us for years who runs the BBQ and Jacob Jorgenson who runs our morning swimming programs.

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

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

- Seasonal staff is down from last year. It has been harder to find help this year than previous years.
- Both full time staff and seasonal staff have been doing a fantastic job in our parks. Complaints from neighborhoods are way down.

Board member Jim Ronquillo made a comment regarding how well the park seasonal staff member working at South. Said he is doing a good job. Board member Lew Morris commented that he is seeing park staff doing a great job in all of our parks.

City Administrator Kris Kukulski also commented on how impressed he is with the job being done the parks.

Council member Denise Joy said how great Sacajawea is. She said they used the park and the bathrooms and playground were great, there were a lot of people using the park and also that there was a neighbor who goes around the park picking up trash on a daily basis.

#### **C. Park Planning Division – Park Planner Mark Jarvis:**

In addition to his report, Mark touched on the following:

- Should be installing the playground equipment at Primrose Park. The installation has been delayed due to weather. Hope to have the installation completed and ready to go by the end of the month.

#### **D. Park Patrol Report – Officer Nick Lam**

- Dealing with transients at North and South have gone down since we have a park patrol officer

- There has been 30% fewer calls regarding issues in parks
- During the summer months, Officer Lam has an additional help from resource officers.

## **IX. AJOURNMENT – 12:29 pm**

*(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)*