

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE October 9, 2019
AND LOCATION: PRPL office



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Rupsis, Chuck Platt, Lew Morris, Thom MacLean, Clark Johnson

PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Paul Reinhardt, Community Outreach Specialist

City Administrator:
Chris Kukulski

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

City Council member; Mike Yakawich
Riverstone Health staff; Nathan Stahley and Sarah Music
Public attendees: Charlie Yegen, Larry Seekins and Pam Ellis

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Board member Thom MacLean approved the September 11 2019 minutes.
Board member Clark Johnson seconded. On a voice vote, all approved.*

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Michael said two restrooms have been completed at Riverfront Park. Funding for the project came from the Exxon Mobil oil spill money. The State ran the project under our direction.

Primrose Park playground is complete. The project was done in partnership with School District 2.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parkland Gleaning Project:

The department received a \$4,950 from the YPG Action Grant for the parkland-gleaning program. Community Outreach Specialist Paul Reinhardt reported the grant money will be used for the purchase of 40-50 trees, printing of informational brochures and park signage. Paul said the departments gleaning program was started back in 2018 in partnership with the Billings Metro VISTA project to provide food security with the development method for citizens to map food resources available for gleaning within parkland. Sixty-three fruit producing trees were planted in Rose, Lillis, Comanche, and Highland Parks. Plans are to plant more trees in Arrowhead, Spring Creek, and Ponderosa.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Coulson Park Master Plan:

Michael said discussion on the Coulson Park master plan has been postponed until next month. He said the consultants on the project were detained out of town due to weather. Michael said the plan will be reviewed at a City Council work session in October. No action on the plan will take place at that meeting. Council should be taking action sometime near the end of this year or first part of next.

Board member Clark Johnson asked to make some comments on the master plan. He expressed that the north end of the park should not be developed due to the difficulty of getting into that section of the park and that it was uninviting. He also presented a small history on the connection between the local Peter Yegen family and the park and made a suggestion to include them in the development of the south end of the park. A member of the Yegen family, Charlie Yegen, was at the meeting to give his thoughts and support in assisting in that section of the development.

B. Non-Smoking Policy in Parks:

Nathan Stahley and Sarah Music from Riverstone Health gave a recap on a non-smoking policy in parks and went over the resolution of the policy with the revisions from the board at last months is meeting.

Comments and questions from the board on the revisions to the policy are as follows:

- The policy should ease smokers out of parks
- There should be a designated area or couple of areas within the park(s) to smoke. It was noted by Nathan that the non-smoking policies like this across the nation are not going in this direction but said it is something that could be looked at including asking questions like how you would regulate those areas. Another

comment was to have only certain parks designated for smoking. Nathan said this policy would be phased in; possibly start with just a few parks. He said their goal is to present it to City Council and get their thoughts.

- A question was asked why PAR3 Golf course was included in the revisions/policy. Sarah said PAR3 is technically included as a park, they currently do not have a smoke free policy, and we do not want to put that restriction on them.
- A comment was made that they have never had a problem with people smoking in the parks.
- Suggestion to have signage put up
- A comment was made to have the City's Legal Department look over the policy and clean up some of the wording.
- When asked what the staff's thoughts were on this, Michael Whitaker replied that when this was brought to the department several years ago, he asked to wait until a statistical survey was done. Since then, the department has done a survey and 69% of the community was in support of this policy. He also said staff is here to implement whatever City Council would like to do.

A couple of the public attendees commented on the policy and unanimously agreed that this policy was not needed. They commented signage would be fine but to not make it a rule/policy. Nathan commented back that there are studies that show outdoor second hand smoke (20-30 feet in front of you) is an issue. He said these policies have shown that they work and can change the long-term use of different products. He said their intent is to create some language in this policy that would work for everyone.

Board Chair asked the board to make a recommendation on the policy. ***Board member Thom MacLean made a motion for City Council to consider the general concept of the no smoking in parks resolution/policy by Riverstone Health. Board member Lew Morris seconded. No further discussion. All in favor were Tom Rupsis, Thom MacLean, and Lew Morris. Those against were Clark Johnson and Chuck Platt. Motion passed 3-2***

C. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

Michael Whitaker did a quick over view of the CIP that was presented at a special park board meeting on October 4. He said staff has attempted to address the items made by the board and public from that meeting and included them in this presentation. Those changes were as follows:

- Do not use the color red in the presentation for those with vision issues. Changes were made in purple.
- Add the word "supplemental" to the satellite facility description
- Group all new park development projects into one list
- Include Centennial Park playground in the CIP; the Parks Foundation is raising funds for this project. This was added in FY2021

- A public comment was that we needed to pave Arrowhead, High Sierra Dog Park, Castlerock, and Clevenger parking lots. That has not been included in the proposed CIP but do consider them definite needs.
- A comment was made to add specifics to paving projects. Staff has added those.
- Rank all park assets replacement priority. Park Superintendent went over that list. List was broken down into sections; roads & parking lots, manual irrigations systems, splash pads/wading pools, and playgrounds (general fund parks/PMD parks; playgrounds in PMD parks, and shelters & restrooms. The general criteria is age, replacement parts and availability.
- Add for inflation. Staff does that every year

Michael reviewed the projects as presented at the October 4 meeting with the updated revisions from the board and public.

Board comments on the CIP are as follows:

- Need to look at what we can do for the city to make it more desirable. Look at talking with other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce to see what they feel we should do for the city. We need to market our existing facilities to the public. A comment was made to this that the current CIP does have a least two items that would do this; Coulson is a great place showcase Billings and the Recreation Sports Center.
- Comments were made regarding increasing the assessments for PD1 and for those assessments to include inflation.

Board chair Tom Rupsis moved to recommend staff to adjust the starting point from 1.3 up to 1.7(add another 400,000)/ 2 to 2.4

Move to adjust FY21 to reflect the 2.4 million PD1 assessment and include a reasonable cost of living adjustment/inflation factor for out years. Board member Thom MacLean seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

Board chair Tom Rupsis moved to replace the spraygrounds projects with other priority 1 projects from the list until such point sprayground approaches better understood. The Board all voiced their approval, and the motion passed.

Board chair Tom Rupsis moved to remove the satellite maintenance projects until such point those approaches are better understood and we replace those with other priority 1 projects. The board on a voice vote passed the motion 3-1.

Board chair Tom Rupsis moved to set the fiscal year 21 new park development funds to a million dollar increase over 3 years (333,000 first year; 666,000 second year; 1 million 3rd year and continuing 1 million after that), and some portion of that is designated as a matching grants and rest of that available for new development projects. On a voice vote, motion passed.

D. Centennial Park Development Update:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave an update on Centennials development.

- Weather is impacting the development right now; set back about a week right now due to the snow storm
- Paving has been pushed back by a week
- Mike Pigg said the on the line from the ditch going down, is currently going on; they are proceeding with this

VIII. AJOURNMENT – 1:33 pm

(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)