

## MEETING MINUTES

**RECORDED BY:** Melonie Trang

**MEETING PURPOSE:** PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE** December 11, 2019  
**AND LOCATION:** PRPL office



**ATTENDEES:** PRC Board Members:  
Tom Rupsis, Chuck Platt, Lew Morris, Thom MacLean, Clark Johnson, Tim Warburton, Jim Ronquillo, Mark Wahl

PRPL Staff Members:  
Mike Whitaker, Director  
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent  
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent  
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner  
Sean Brandenburg, Recreation Specialist  
Brad Knutson, Recreation Specialist  
Sean Brandenburg, Recreation Specialist  
Paul Reinhardt, Community Outreach & Engag. Coord.

City Planning:  
Wyeth Friday and Elyse Monat

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### I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

#### A. INTRODUCTIONS

Pam Ellis, Tom Zorbucher, Kevin Nelson, Patrick Certain

#### B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the agenda

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Board member Jim Ronquillo made a motion to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes. Board member Thom MacLean seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.*

### II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Capital improvement Plan (CIP) - Michael said City Council reviewed the CIP at the December 9 meeting. Council has delayed making a motion on the parks and recreation portion of the CIP. Council has requested staff to provide more information and delay the park development portion. The current plan includes a proposed \$400,000 catch up, annual inflation adjustment beginning in FY22 and park development funding tier. The

board expressed some concern with the removal of development funding. They felt it was important to keep that in the proposal and suggested staff to include that in the updated proposal. ***A motion was made by Thom MacLean for staff to add back into the CIP proposal park development and for Council to choose what amount and timing to bring it back. Board member Clark Johnson seconded.*** Further discussion was done and Board member Tim Warburton expressed his thoughts against the recommendation expressing that Council took it out we should leave it out. ***A voice vote, the motion to approve the adding park development back into the CIP was approved 7-1 with Board member Warburton against.*** Council will be reviewing the PRPL CIP again next Monday night.

Board Chair Rupsis requested an update on tree donations for Centennial Park. Park Planner Mark Jarvis said we have received some donations including one from the Realty Association that is specifically for trees in the dog park. He said the Forestry Division would be working on purchasing the trees. Park Superintendent Mike Pigg commented the Forestry division places a tree order this time of year. The Forestry staff should start planting trees this fall.

### **III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT**

Public comment; staff should bring back several options for the CIP

Public comment; would like to see more dollars put into the heights and more amenities for all ages especially older adults

Public comment; feels frustration over how Park District 1 was created back in 2011 and how it currently is being used

Public comment; agree with the presentation from Clark Johnson on Black Otter trail that it does not have any signage and needs it; also, that it is difficult to drive in that area.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. South Billings Aquatic & Recreation Center Master Plan Feasibility Study:**

Dusty Eaton from A&E gave a PowerPoint presentation on the South Billings Aquatic and Recreation Master Plan feasibility study.

Highlighted items from the presentation:

- Received community input through community forums, the community survey that went out to 505 city and county residents, and leadership committee meetings.
- Comments from the community regarding the facilities: should be family oriented, forward thinking, a destination hub, welcoming, western setting and access and wayfinding should be clear and easy to comprehend.
- Comments from the community: strongly agree we need an indoor recreation center, create a regional attraction by having the facilities for hosting tournaments and events, the center should include a social

gathering component, community needs more fitness, recreation and social opportunities for both young and old, open fitness area, indoor pool, gymnasium-court sports, and group exercises studios

- 36% of the community felt they would be willing to pay a fee to use the facility
- Possible amenities in the facility would include, open fitness, concession, track, group fitness area, meeting rooms, pools (leisure/competition), pool party room, 2 gymnasiums, ice rink
- Option A – full facility that includes the general programming area (lobby support spaces, poolside classroom/party room, locker rooms, and facility administration), two gymnasiums (for volleyball & basketball), aquatics (competition and community pool; aquatic support spaces), fitness center, competition ice rink and practice ice rink. Within option A is several baseline floor plans that are based on what funds are available. Option A projected costs would be around \$35.4 M – \$71.5 M dependent on which floor plans are chosen. Size of facility in option A would range between 74,800sf-163,900sf.
- Option B - full facility that includes the general programming area (lobby support spaces, poolside classroom/party room, locker rooms, and facility administration, tenant/multi-purpose, cafe), two gymnasiums (for volleyball & basketball and would include elevated walk/jog track), aquatics (competition pool/competition expansion and leisure pool; aquatic support spaces), fitness center, competition ice rink and practice ice rink. Within option B is several baseline floor plans that are based on what funds are available. Option B projected costs would be around \$43.6M – \$102.0M dependent on which floor plans are chosen. Size of facility in option B would range between 98,000sf-224,800sf.
- 547 parking spaces are needed but 549 are planned
- Entrance into the facility will come off of South Billings Boulevard and also King Avenue East

Mr. Eaton said the first part of next year they will do a master plan review and consideration to the SBURD, City Council and Parks and Recreation. Following that, the next step is to form a Funding Committee to see how to move the project forward. The Funding committee will do a cost analysis and work on funding solutions. The final stage will be to have a funding strategy in place along with starting the design process in the fall of 2020.

Board member Johnson asked why it was being called South Billings Aquatic & Recreation Center. Mr. Eaton said since its going in South Billings and that most of the funding is coming from the SBURD that they used that name but nothing is set.

Board chair Rupsis asked why we were approving the master plan before funding was approved. Mr. Eaton said the master plan defines the project. He said discussion on funding could take a while. Mr. Rupsis expressed that he would

rather have a funding source in place prior to approving any master plan.

Board member Platt expressed that we should get the plan out there first so people can see what we are talking about.

Board member Morris said he liked what was being presented but felt that operational costs could be flexible.

Wyeth Friday from Planning commented that he liked to see the plan; it shows what options are available, it gives people something to look at and share, and gives a great opportunity for both private and public funding.

Board member Warburton asked who paid for the development of the master plan. Michael Whitaker said the SBURD. Mr. Warburton also commented that because it was paid by the SBURD, that he does not see the negative in why it should not be supported. Mr. Whitaker did comment that the only thing negative he could see with the project, is how to subsidized or pay for operations.

Board member Warburton asked if School District 2 was involved. Board member and School District 2 representative Marc Wahl said that he has been given regular updates on the project.

Mr. Rupsis asked if School District 2 would be a partner in building this since there was talk with them using the building for some of their activities. Board member Wahl said that School District 2 would be considered a user group/renter of the building.

Board chair Rupsis asked for a motion on the master plan.

***Board member Jim Ronquillo made a motion that the board supports the project as presented by Dusty Eaton; that the board recommends to City Council to approve the South Billings Aquatic & Recreation Center Master Plan as presented by Dusty Easton. Board member Chuck Platt seconded.***

Additional discussion: Board member Johnson said he would only support the motion if we lead with the money that is available and not with the facility.

Board member Morris said we can vote for something but we are only the sounding board to the council. Council is the ones to make the decisions.

Board member Warburton asked if we needed to be more specific with which option we approve; option a or option b. Michael Whitaker said he believes funding will flush out whether it should be option a or b.

Board member MacLean asked if we could put in our motion that we approve the master plan based on or contingent upon financial study. Board chair Rupsis said

he would feel more comfortable if the motion would recommend that the (funding) committee use the master plan as a base line for coming up with a funding source strategy and package them together for final approval.

Vice chairman Warburton said he did not understand Tom's recommendation when the master plan already includes forming a funding committee and identify funding sources.

**On a voice vote, the motion to approve the master plan was approved 6-2 with Tom Rupsis and Clark Johnson against.**

**B. Yellowstone Kelly and Black Otter Trail:**

Board member Clark Johnson presented information on the lack of signage and encouragement to enter Yellowstone Kelly's Gravesite and Black Otter Trail.

Michael said that the Planning department is working on a signage project. Elyse Monat from Planning said they are doing standard "way finding" signage across Billings. It is mainly for non-motorized way findings. Elements of signage will be kiosk that would mark a place, mile marker, trail, or street crossing, decision sign showing an individual a way to go, confirmation signs, trail etiquette. Planning is putting together a grant to help fund about 60 signs that will be placed in Swords and Coulson/along the trails.

**VII. AJOURNMENT – 1:05 pm**

*(Please note these minutes are summary minutes)*