

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang



MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2008
PRPL Office, Billings Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Richard Deis, Rachel Cox, Margy Bonner,
Wanda Walker, Mary Fitzpatrick, Jim Strecker, Dave Williams
Rick DeVore

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Gene Blackwell, Parks Superintendent
Lee Stadmiller, Cemetery Superintendent

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Iverson introduced the newest member of the Park and Recreation Board; Rick Devore. Also present representing the Billings Tennis Association was Eileen Pinkerton.

B. APPROVAL OF January 9th, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

The PRC Board reviewed the minutes. An action was made to accept/decline the January Minutes. *Rachel Cox made a motion to approve the January 9, 2008 meeting minutes. Dave Williams seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.*

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Wanda Walker made a request to add “Community Wide Survey” to “New Business”.
- Tom Iverson requested “Annual City Council Board Report” to be added under “Unfinished Business”.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

A. Ballpark Update:

Mike made the following comments in regards to the ballpark:

- Construction of the ballpark continues to remains a month ahead of schedule due to the nice weather.
- There is no longer a shortfall in the project due to federal funding and the success of the brick campaign but there still is a list of unfunded items.
- Federal dollars should be coming in sometime around the middle of March; early April.
- Three bids for the scoreboard design have come in. The Steering Committee made a recommendation for final City Council approval on a design that is a grade higher than the base bid design. The chosen design concept will include four panels for advertising/sponsorship, a full color display and a monochrome reader board.

Question: Is the advertising sold on the scoreboard going to the Mustangs or is it going to pay for the scoreboard? The donations that have come in for half a million dollars are from Wendy's and First Interstate Bank. They will each be given a panel to use for their advertisement. The two remaining panel sections will be given to anyone who donates to the purchase of the scoreboard or gives a substantial amount.

Question: What will go on the monitor? The monitor will not have a real time component to it so it will be used for graphics; possibly of the player's stats.

Question: How long will the sponsors be able to keep their name on the scoreboard? Wendy's and First Interstate Bank will be posted for 10 years.

Question: The playground is currently on hold due to insufficient funds; is it possible to look into grants like the Kaboom grant, to fund the project? Yes

Question: Is the sound system still allocated for \$50,000? It is at \$90,000 and still unfunded.

- Dave Watterson from the Cities IT Department has found a way to save the project around \$5,000-\$8,000 on the technology aspect of the stadium.

B. Billings Tennis Association Request (BTA):

Eileen Pinkerton representing the Billings Tennis Association did a follow up presentation on the proposed construction of a tennis facility located in Centennial Park. She commented that the BTA, after further examination of other possibly locations, are now considered moving the facility to Lampman Park. Lampman Park is currently an undeveloped park in a highly traffic area which would bring attention to the facility and would offer more usable land to work with. To determine which of the two parks are best suited, a neighborhood survey will go out and then the feedback from that will determine what the next step will be.

Board members comments from the presentation:

1. Keep the location for the tennis facility at Centennial Park.

2. Consider selling Centennial Park and using the profits from the sale to purchase a larger and centrally located piece of land to build a multi-recreation area that could include, a tennis building, ice skating ring, ball fields, swimming pool, etc.
3. Several members expressed support for the facility.
4. A request was made to the BTA to do a conceptual drawing on what they would like the Master Plan to be for both Centennial Park and Lampman Park in regards to a tennis facility.
5. Would like to see the city develop Centennial Park, which is in the major part of the growth center of Billings, as to oppose to developing somewhere else like Lampman Park.
6. That it would not be right strategically to quickly move forward on developing this facility without going to the community and presenting the options as to where we are going in future development.
7. Does not believe the Park and Recreation Department will benefit from this facility due to that it will only reach a small amount of people in the community.

Mike commented that the BTA is not making a formal request for the use of park land at this meeting. The purpose for the today's presentation was to receive feedback from the Board on the pros and cons in building a tennis facility in a city park. Further discussion will be made at upcoming PRC Board meetings once further research has been done.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment presented.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Annual City Council Board Report:

Tom Iverson requested for the Board to give a breakdown on the vision and initiatives for the Park and Recreation Department to be presented at a future City Council work session.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stadium Management Agreement (Attachment A in Board Packet):

Park Board reviewed the Stadium Management agreement and following several comments and questions it was decided that the Board was not satisfied with the agreement and requested that their questions and comments listed below be reviewed again before sending the agreement to City Council for final approval. An action on this decision was requested by the Board Chair Tom Iverson.

Richard Deis made the recommendation to delay sending the final "City of Billings Facility Management Operation and Use Agreement" to City Council for approval until the following listed items were reviewed.

1. *Under section 3.9 it states that "all of the Ballclub's standard forms of sublease, use agreements, contract and subcontract forms must be*

subject to prior approval from the Billings Parks and Recreation Department.” A comment was made to have a better clarification of the wording indication exactly who is considered as part of the sublease, use agreement, contracts and subcontracts.

2. *Concern was expressed that section 5.5 was conflicting with section 3.9. A question arose on whether the lease mentioned in section 5.5 be considered the same kind of lease mentioned in section 3.9 and would also presented before the Parks and Recreation Department for final approval.*
3. *Under section 6.4 “concession facilities will be cleaned daily with approved cleaning agent”; a suggestion was made to change the wording from “approved” to “appropriate” cleaning agents.*
4. *It was noted that there was no severability clause included in the agreement. A recommendation was made that there should be one included.*
5. *It was agreed by Board members that the length of the agreement, being 10 years, was too long and should be shortened.*
6. *A comment was made that the agreement should include a section or clause stating that if there is a substantial increase in the Mustangs revenue during the time of this lease, their rental fee to the City should be increased.*

Rachel Cox seconded. All were in favor

In addition to the top listed questions and comments; it was asked for Board members to give any additional questions or comments to Mike Whitaker over the next several days.

B. Exxon Agreement:

Gene Blackwell passed out copies of the Exxon EPA Emissions Reduction Plan Agreement for review. The agreement is for the replacement of high emitting heavily used in-service vehicles or engines with models that meet 2007 EPA emissions standards. The Parks and Recreation Department has several vehicles that will need replacement and funding from the Exxon EPA Emissions Reduction Plan Agreement will cover costs for their replacement.

The Board expressed no problems with the agreement. Tom Iverson requested an action be taken to approve that the Exxon Agreement go before City Council for its acceptance.

Rachel Cox gave a recommendation to have the Exxon Agreement presented to the City Council for acceptance and final approval. Margy Bonner seconded. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

C. Park Leases:

Due to time constraint, discussion on Park Leases was postponed until next month's meeting.

D. Lap Swimming:

Wanda Walker made a request for Rose Park Pool to have set time(s) and additional specifically marked area lap lanes. She indicated that in the past there wasn't enough lanes available, you had to put your own lap lane markers up, and life guards did not always keep out other swimmers from jumping in the lap lane area.

Due to time constraint Tom Iverson requested for Wanda to meet with PRPL staff and discuss a program with them.

E. Community Wide Survey:

Due to time constraint, discussion on a Community Wide Survey was not discussed.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division:

No written or oral Recreation Division report was given at the meeting.

B. Park Division:

The Park Division report was included in the February 13th Board packet for review.

C. Park Planning Division:

No written or oral Park Planning Division report was given at the meeting.

D. Cemetery Division:

The Cemetery Division report was included in the February 13th Board packet for review.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.