

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang



MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2008
PRPL Office, Billings Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

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

PRPL Staff Members:

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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Due to a large public attendance to the meeting, Chair Iverson made a request for introductions from those in the room.

B. APPROVAL OF MARCH 12TH, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

The February meeting minutes were mistakenly put in the April PRC Board packet instead of the March 12th minutes. Chair Iverson requested that no action accepting the March 12th minutes be taken until next month.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Iverson made a request to have the title "*PRPL Presentation to City Council*" added to the agenda under "*Unfinished Business*".

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Director Mike Whitaker announced the retirement of Park Superintendant Gene Blackwell. Board and staff thanked Mr. Blackwell for his 30 years of service to the Parks Department and gave their best regards.

A. Ballpark Update:

Director Mike Whitaker made the following comments in regards to the ballpark:

- The Pepsi Company has agreed to donate \$200,000 over a ten year period to the project. Rick DeVore asked what the money would go towards. Mr. Whitaker said that Pepsi has requested the funds go towards upgrading the scoreboard. Upgrades would include doubling the video portion of the board and placing the name "Dehler Park" at the top of the board.
- The Billings Gazette will be featuring a tab on the Grand Opening of Dehler Park. They have decided to sell advertising spots on the tab with a portion of the sales to be given to us for any cost accrued during the grand opening.
- PRPL staff is working with G & G Advertising on creating a logo for the new stadium. G & G Advertising has also agreed to work with us on updating the current PRPL logo.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Iverson opened the floor for public comment. Several city residents in attendance expressed to the Board and Staff the ongoing problems with Disc Golf at the Pioneer Park. Home owners spoke on; being hit by the disc while walking both in and around the park, discs hitting homeowners property and doing damage, and damage being done to the park itself from the discs.

Mr. Iverson responded on behalf of the Board and staff that they have been made aware of the problems. At this time no action can be taken by the Board. The Master Plan for Pioneer Park needs to be revised, funding to move disc golf to another location must be available and City Council must approve the revision and the relocation of the game before the Board can move any further. Mr. Iverson suggested city residents go before City Council with their concerns.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRPL Presentation to City Council:

Chairman Iverson requested the Board speak out their ideas and thoughts on future plans for the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department. Comments will be presented to City Council this month. The following list is the Boards comments:

1. City Wide needs assessment.
2. Re-look and update the cities 20/20 plan
 - Need another large regional park/facility in a central location. (Approx. 75-100 acres) Park should include baseball fields, basketball courts, indoor tennis courts, aquatic center, recreation center that meets all the needs that are not currently being met.
 - Money to develop and maintain parks through citywide parks maintenance districts.
 - Review all developed and undeveloped land for possible uses or sale.
 - Add or create ordinances
 - Look at the possibility of joining City and County land for a park. (City and County partnerships)

- Push for an agreement with the ditch companies regarding trails, both walking and biking trails. Push for right of way.
- Land acquisition removal
- Update Sub-division regulations
- Need a marketing budget
- Like to have schools near parks. Continue the great partnership with the school district.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Current Lease Agreements:

Discussion on the lease agreements within the Parks and Recreation Department will be discussed this fall.

B. PRC Board Members Attending Public Meetings:

Board member Rick DeVore made a request to have the PRC Board notified of public meetings being held regarding issues with Parks and Recreation. Mr. Whitaker said he will have emails sent to Board members of all upcoming public meetings.

C. Briarwood Park Master Plan:

Discussion on the Briarwood Park Master Plan has been moved to next month's meeting.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division:

Recreation Superintendant Joe Fedin gave an oral report at the meeting; following information was given:

- Exxon agreement has been approved. Putting together bids for the new buses.
- Staff is working on the summer brochure. Deadline for completion is the following week.
- Continuing to update ballpark construction pictures on the Parks and Recreation website.
- Working with city officials on putting a policy together regarding groups using the parks for events open to the public and not having a permit to do so.
- Showmobil rentals are showing early on that it will be another banner year.
- Working on online registration. The system should be up and running middle or end of July 08.
- Met with the Better Billings Foundation, created and organized by Harvest Church; to discuss a pool in the heights. They expressed at the meeting that they are able to build a pool in the heights as they initially thought due to costs. They have requested for us to consider partnering with them. We have indicated to them that right now we can only provide resources in terms of our knowledge base and some of the people that work for us. Board member Rachel Cox expressed that it would be a great to have three groups; a church, a school and the city's Parks and Recreation Department build the pool together and have three funding sources.

B. Park Division:

The Park Planning report was included in the April 9th Board packet for review.

C. Park Planning Division:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis requested Board member Rachel Cox give an update on the Dog Park Committee meeting held April 1st. Ms. Cox informed the Board that the committee has chosen Riverfront Park as their #1 site location for a dog park. High Sierra in the heights was their second and they were continuing to look into a third location on the westend. The Dog Park Committee has also agreed to put together a sub-committee to handle the fundraising aspect of the project.

Board member Wanda Walker commented that she felt Coulson Park was a great location for dog park.

D. Cemetery Division:

The Cemetery Division report was included in the April 9th Board packet for review.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Wanda Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick DeVore seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned.