



MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2008
PRPL Office, Billings Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Richard Deis, Margy Bonner, Wanda Walker,
Rachel Cox, Mary Fitzpatrick, Jim Strecker, Rick DeVore

PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director
Joe Fedin, Recreation 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 and APRIL 9TH, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

March 12th and April 9th meeting minutes were presented together for approval. PRC Board Member *Mary Fitzpatrick made a motion to accept both minutes as presented to Board. Margy Bonner seconded. On a voice vote, the motion was unanimously accepted.*

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the agenda were given.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Director Mike Whitaker reported the turf is down at the stadium and has taken root very fast. It will be ready for use on grand opening day.
- Mr. Whitaker said concerns have been presented to the staff on the warning track at the stadium being too loose. Solution for that will be to use binder on it. Architects, HNTB will be attending to the concerns.
- Mr. Whitaker said John Brewer from the Chamber has secured vendors to give a baseball card show along the concourse during the Grand Opening Ceremony. Mr.

Whitaker believes this will allow people to see the multi-use aspect of the stadium and show how the concourse can be utilized.

➤ Chairman Iverson asked if the agreement with the Mustangs been signed. Mr. Whitaker said that City Council has given City Administrator Tina Volek permission to sign the contract. As of right now it has not been signed by her.

➤ Chairman Iverson asked if a copy of the signed contract could be given to Board members. Mr. Whitaker said he will have copies available once it has been signed. Mr. Whitaker said the contract will also be available on the Park and Recreation website.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made until the discussion of the Briarwood Master plan. Please see below.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Briarwood Master Plan:

Peaks to Plains Design gave a brief presentation on the master plan for the Briarwood subdivision. Copies of the plan were given out to all Board members for review prior to the meeting.

The Briarwood Master Plan presented showed three design concepts for the development of Briarwood Park located in portions of Section 27 and the NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 26, T.I.S., and R6 E in the Briarwood subdivision. It is bordered on the north by Briarwood Boulevard and is approximately 7.095 acres. Currently, this park is considered undeveloped. The City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department is considering developing the area and providing a playground for residents. The three concepts created represent a minimal, medium, and most developed ideas for the park. Parks and Recreation Department along with Peaks to Plains Design did a presentation at several town hall meetings for residents to give their input. Those ideas and suggestions were considered into the final design concepts.

Following the presentation and before any recommendations from the PRC Board, Chairman Iverson opened the floor for public comment. Several residents in attendance gave the following remarks:

- Park is located near ditch and there are concerns of children drowning.
- A school will be built across from the park, children can use that area to play in.
- Leave the parkland area natural.
- Kids need a safe place to play and a playground will be a nice addition.
- Concerns on the cost to develop

PRC Board members expressed back to the public that a master plan should be put in place before a group or individual tries to develop the land for their own purposes. They also wanted it made clear that this Board is only there to make a recommendation to City Council on this plan. City Council ultimately will determine whether or not the Master Plan is implemented.

After final review and discussion of the options for the master plan, concept option #1 was considered the best option and least expensive. Chairman Iverson requested for a vote on the master plan. ***Board member Wanda Walker made a motion to***

recommend sending the Briarwood Master Plan least expensive design concept option #1 to City Council for their approval. Board member Mary Fitzpatrick seconded. On a voice vote the motion was accepted unanimously.

Final note: The Briarwood Master Plan will be presented to City Council for a final vote. It is during that time residents will have another opportunity to express their views in support or non-support of the plan. If the plan is accepted by the Council it will then be presented to the public for their vote of support. Development of the Master Plan will only be done if both Council and residents have voted for its approval.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Heights Pool Project:

Chuck Barthuly from the Better Billings Association (BBA) spoke to the Board on what his organization is about and how they would like to partner with the City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department to put a pool in the heights area. They are looking at a 2-4 million project that would be funded by both federal funding and private donors.

Board member Margy Bonner asked if they had received any federal funding. Mr. Barthuly replied that they have received \$196,000 from the federal appropriations to build a community center that will be attached to the aquatic facility.

Board member Cox made a suggestion for the BBA to look at possibly partnering with other organizations like possibly Skyview High School and the heights Senior Center.

It was asked where the aquatic facility would be built. Mr. Barthuly said it hadn't been determined yet.

A board member expressed concern if the facility was built on private land that it wouldn't be available to the public. Mr. Barthuly reassured everyone that there would be no strings attached to this project. They would be the ones building this pool and then opening it up to the City for residents to use.

Board member Rick DeVore strongly felt that they should not use private land. His concern would be for a lease with the owner of the land to ruin out and that owner would want the land back.

PRPL Director Mike Whitaker expressed that we are just exploring this option of partnering with the BBA. There will need to be further talks with them and then more information presented to the PRC Board before anything is finally determined.

Chairman Iverson made a request for the Board to either approve or not approve in engaging in a partnership with the BBA.

Board member Mary Fitzpatrick made a motion for the PRC Board to explore the possible benefits and pitfalls of a partnership with the Better Billings Association. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. Board member Rachel Cox expressed that we should just move forward with the partnership. Board member Margy Bonner expressed that she did not understand why we should have a motion for this and that she felt very uncomfortable with the partnership due to the lack of information. Chairman Iverson expressed that we are only making a decision to either continue talks with them or not. Following discussion, Chairman Iverson had the motion reworded to say *to seek more information for the potential of a partnership with the Better*

Billings Association. The motion was amended to the corrected wording. It was seconded. Motion passed.

B. New Ball Field Centennial Park:

Board member Rick DeVore made a request to have discussion on the Ballfield at Centennial Park moved before FY09 Budget. Chairman Iverson gave permission for it to be moved up on the list of New Business.

Mr. DeVore introduced Donell Small as speaker on behalf of District 1 Little League. Mr. Small made a request for the PRC Board to approve moving ahead on the development of a full size ballfield at Centennial Park. A copy of the Centennial Park Master Plan was handed out for Board members to review. Mr. Small pointed out that the new ballfield is already included in the master plan. He said funding for the development of the ballfield would not come out of the Cities funds but from private donations.

PRPL Director Mike Whitaker said he along with Park Planner Mark Jarvis and all individuals involved in the development of the ballfield would need to sit down and discuss a final location of the field before any development was done.

Chairman Iverson made a request for the Board to vote on whether to proceed with the development or not. ***Board member Rachel Cox made a motion to proceed with the development of a full size ballfield at Centennial Park. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. On a voice vote the motion carried.***

C. FY09 Budget Request:

PRPL Director Mike Whitaker gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the 09 budget request that will be presented to City Council work session in May. Final approval of the budget won't be until July.

D. Department Logo:

PRPL Director Mike Whitaker showed a copy of the new park and recreation logo along with Dehler park new logo. The Board's comments showed an overall acceptance of the new logos.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division:

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

B. Park Division:

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

C. Park Planning Division:

The Park Planning Division report was included in the PRC Board packet and copies were at the meeting for review. No questions or discussion was given on the report.

D. Cemetery Division:

The Cemetery Division gave a written report at the meeting. No questions or discussion was given on the report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm