

# MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang



MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2008  
PRPL Office, Billings Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:  
Tom Iverson, Dave Williams, Wanda Walker, Rachel Cox,  
Mary Fitzpatrick, Rick DeVore

PRPL Staff Members:  
Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director  
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent  
Lee Stadmiller, Cemetery Superintendent  
Mark Jarvis, Parks Planner

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## I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

### A. INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions were given at the meeting.

### B. APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

May 14th meeting minutes were presented for approval. *PRC Board Member Rick DeVore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented to the Board. Board Member Mary Fitzpatrick 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 requested PRPL Senior Office Assistant Dana Jefferson to update the Board on the Grand Opening of Dehler Park.

- Ms. Jefferson said posters advertising the Grand Opening have been made for businesses to put up. Several banners were made and have been hung up at the stadium giving the dates and times for both the Grand Opening and the Little League game.
- Magnets, pins and key chains with the Parks and Recreation and Dehler Park logos were made and will be given away at the opening.
- Ed Bayne and Dave McNally family members will be speaking on behalf of their family at the unveiling of the statues.

- The Gazette Tab will be out in the Billings Gazette on June 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be eight pages of history on baseball here in Billings and other articles on Cobb Field and Dehler Park.
- Ms. Jefferson also said that the Cultural Partners are very interested in setting up booths at the Grand Opening in addition to checking into using the stadium for other venues throughout the year.

➤ Mr. Whitaker requested Park Planner Mark Jarvis update the Board on the bricks and plaques at Dehler Park.

- Mr. Jarvis said the plaques have arrived and should go in around June 16th. He showed the memorial plaque honoring and recognizing City officials, PRC Board and Steering Committee for their contribution to the ballfield.

➤ Mr. Whitaker reported that a documentary video on minor league baseball which includes a segment on Cobb Field will be available for purchase at the Grand Opening.

➤ Mr. Whitaker updated the Board on the partnership with the Better Billings Association (BBA) in conjunction with the heights pool project that was discussed at the May PRC Board meeting. He informed them that there have been two meetings since then with the BBA. At one of the meetings a consultant who specializes in aquatics was brought in via teleconference to assist in giving direction on how we should proceed with the project.

City Administrator Tina Volek has also been advised and brought in on the project. Ms. Volek has expressed that she would like us to look in a city wide prospective on this project. The BBA agrees with Ms. Volek and will be discussing a city wide prospective at that at their next meeting.

Mr. Whitaker said more updates on the project and partnership will be given at future Board meetings as it evolves.

➤ Board Chair Tom Iverson asked again of Mr. Whitaker if an agreement with the Mustangs had been signed. Mr. Whitaker said no but that it still is in the Cities Administrators office.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were made from the public.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business presented to the Board.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Advisory Board Ordinance:**

The Advisory Board Ordinance handbook was given to the PRC Board members for review and discussion on behalf of the City Council. These documents were created by City Council to standardize all boards. They have recently made updates

to the ordinances and were requesting comments from department boards on those changes. PRPL Director asked for Board members to relay their comments. PRC Board member Rachel Cox said she thought standardization is a smart move. PRC Board Chair Tom Iverson commented that he felt the PRC Board meetings run pretty good. Other Board members requested more time to review the handbook. Mr. Whitaker said Board members could email their comments at a later time and he will forward them on to Council Members.

## **VI. DIVISION UPDATES**

### **A. Recreation Division:**

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin gave the following oral report for the recreation division:

- Swimming pools opening day has been postponed a couple of days due to cool weather, electrical and water line problems.
- Summer program registrations are doing well. Board Member Rachel Cox asked what program(s) are the most popular. Mr. Fedin replied that Magic City Camp and swimming lessons would have to be the most popular.
- The Batting Cage attendance has been down due to bad weather.
- The Recreation Department has recruited a sufficient number of lifeguards; ninety percent are brand new seasonals and young.
- On July 14<sup>th</sup> a team will be arriving to install and train staff on web registration.

### **B. Park Division:**

PRPL Director Mike Whitaker updated the PRC Board on the Park Superintendent position. He said the position is currently being advertised on the NRPA and MRPA websites along with cities website and local newspaper. He said they are hoping to have the position filled by September.

### **C. Park Planning Division:**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave an update on the planning division.

- Mr. Jarvis said the Briarwood Master Plan is just about complete. It will be going before the cities work session sometime in August and shortly after that before City Council.
- Mr. Jarvis said the Howard Heights Master Plan that was presented to the Board about a year ago and then put on hold because of storm drains will hopefully be going before City Council in August.
- The dog park is continuing to move forward. The Dog Park Committee has narrowed down a spot at Riverfront Park and also a possible future spot at High Sierra Park. They are currently working out some things with various agencies involved and also rules and regulations that are in place. Mr. Jarvis hopes to have the Master Plan for Riverfront Park revised and sent to City Council in August.
- Board Chair Tom Iverson asked if the Pioneer Park Master Plan will be updated. PRPL Board Director Mike Whitaker said yes it will and funding

to pay to make the updates will come from the sell of parkland in an industrial area near Amend Park.

**D. Cemetery Division:**

Cemetery Supervisor Lee Stadmiller gave a brief update on the Cemetery Division.

- Mr. Stadmiller said staff is working on catching up with all the mowing. He said they have funerals scheduled all the way out into July; normally funerals are only scheduled out two to three weeks maximum. Reason for the delays is the weather; many individuals who live in other states are waiting for nicer weather before they bury their love ones.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm*