

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2008
Community Center Conference Room



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

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

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Lee Stadmiller, Cemetery Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Parks Planner

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Special guest Pastor George Burgan of Harvest Church was in attendance.

B. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2008 MINUTES

November 12th meeting minutes were presented for approval. Board member Richard Deis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented to the Board. Board member Mary Fitzpatrick seconded. On a voice vote, the motion to accept the minutes was unanimously accepted.

C. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2008 MINUTES

December 1st meeting minutes were presented for approval. Board member James Strecker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented to the Board. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote, the motion to accept the minutes was unanimously accepted.

D. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Mr. Whitaker announced the thank you letter sent on behalf of the staff and board to the Billings Gazette in recognition of all the groups, organizations and individuals who have volunteered their time to improve the parks was in the paper today.

- Mr. Whitaker announced the resignation of Board member Wanda Walker from the board. Her resignation will be effective February 2009.
- Mr. Whitaker said the department's online registration should be ready January 1st.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recognition of Harvest Church:

Mr. Whitaker presented two plaques to Pastor George Burgan of Harvest Church thanking the congregation for donating labor and materials during Compassion Weekend 2007 and 2008. Mr. Burgan expressed that the church is looking forward to doing it again in April 2009.

B. Stadium Improvements:

- Mr. Whitaker told the board that the Billings Mustangs will be moving forward on developing the corporate area of Dehler Park. The department will be facilitating the project. Funding for the project will come from the Mustangs. They hope to have the project completed by June 1st.
- Mr. Whitaker said the stadium committee has agreed upon allowing advertising to go up around the restroom area. Money from the advertising will go to the Mustangs.
- Mr. Whitaker informed the board that the stadium has been tagged recently. The outfield chain link fence has been cut in two places and graffiti was painted on the inside of the outfield wall. The department along with the Mustangs is looking into possible security cameras.
- Chairman Iverson asked for the Mustangs financial reports. Mr. Whitaker said he will look into it.

C. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Board member Rick DeVore said he would like to see park maintenance be city wide as apposed to individual subdivision/park maintenance districts.

Mr. DeVore expressed that he would like to establish a committee were they can sit down and work through something to present to the council about ways to fund the a city wide park maintenance district.

It was suggested by the board to include two staff members, two board members, a city council member and several individuals who are either builders or contractors to be part of the committee. The board recommended creating the committee in the first part of the new year.

D. Billings Park Foundation:

Board member Rachel Cox said the committee has filled out an application to see if we could be the recipient for the Quality of Life award to generate money to put a picnic shelter in Pioneer Park. Results on that award should be available by the end of the week. Ms. Cox said the committee is also interested in supporting the Dog Parks.

E. Rush Park:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis said a public informational meeting concerning Rush Park was held November 19th. Residents expressed their concerns on the SID's. He explained that at the time of the meeting the total cost in SID's which would include building the park and a section of Poly Drive would be around \$43,000. He said that since the meeting Public Works has decided to build the section of Poly Drive on their own causing that part of the SID to be out of the equation. Mr. Jarvis said they will be holding another public meeting December 17th at Arrowhead School.

Mr. Jarvis said residents will be assessed to create the park and assessed to maintain it. Mr. Jarvis believes the first year maintenance will be a guess but following years should be closer to the correct amount.

F. Selling Park Land:

Board member Margy Bonner explained to the Board that there is no current policy set in place for the buying and selling of park land. She made a request to have a committee formed to discuss and create a policy and then recommend to City Council that they adopt it. Following further discussion it was recommended to wait until January to form a committee of staff, board, council member(s) and the public.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

B. Park Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

C. Park Planning Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

D. Cemetery Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Rick DeVore made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:50 pm. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.