



PRC PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly Meeting

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2023

LOCATION: Parks & Recreation Office Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

PRC Board Members: Thom MacLean, Jim Rott, Maia Dickerson, Jami Clark

PRPL Staff Members: Mike Whitaker, Director; Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent; Mike Pigg, Parks Superintendent

City Staff Members: Assistant City Administrator Kevin Iffland, Mayor Cole, Elyse Monat; City Planning

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Thom MacLean called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM

INTRODUCTIONS:

Steve Shandera, Community member

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes to approve

DIRECTORS REPORT: Michael Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker asked Elyse Monat to give an update on the grant dollars for the Rose Park trail. Ms. Monat said she has submitted the grant. She said the estimates came back from the engineer higher than planned and due to that, she was unable to write the grant to build the section of trail between 21st and 22nd street west. Ms. Monat said she did write the grant to fix some of the existing concrete trails in the park or bid the section more direct between 21st and 22nd as an alternate.

Board member Jami Clark asked how much of a cost difference was there in the estimates. Ms. Monat said she could not remember at this time. Ms. Clark asked when we would hear back on the grant. Ms. Monat said sometime in May.

Board chair MacLean presented Michael Whitaker with a gift to thank him for his service as a director of the department.

Assistant City Administrator Kevin Iffland said administration has begun to actively look for Michael's position.

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Parks and Recreation 2022 Annual Report:

Mr. Whitaker presented an overview of the annual report. It was noted the report is on the parks and recreation website.

Board member Clark asked if the increase in youth and senior participation is in comparison to the year before or Covid related. Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson said it was the year before. He said since Covid, the department has seen a nice increase in all our programs.

Board member Jim Rott asked if we track participants inside and outside city limits. Mr. Thomson said he could get that information. Mr. Rott asked if Mr. Thomson could give a ballpark number. Mr. Thomson said registration is on an honor system and said it is hard to track for participants that have a 59106 zip or 59101 Lockwood zip code. He said a vast majority are probably city residents, but he can try to get that information.

Board member Maia Dickerson asked for the number of youth scholarships given out in a year. Mr. Thomson said he has that information and can get that information to her. Ms. Dickerson asked if Scheels was the only donor to the scholarship fund. Mr. Thomson said no, there were other sources.

Mr. Thomson announced that the recreation division is losing a staff member. He said Recreation Specialist Brad Knutson has accepted a job in Kalispell MT to run the indoor tennis facility.

Chairman MacLean asked if there are any additional number of trails then the 43 miles of trails the parks division maintains. Parks Superintendent Mike Pigg said there is a specific number of trails Public Works maintains but he does not have that number right now.

B. Parks & Recreation Funding Proposal Update:

Chairman MacLean said the funding committee has held two meetings with another meeting planned this coming Friday. He said the overall goal of the committee has been to discuss the funding issues facing the department including the main issue of the ending of Park District 1 funding.

Mayor Cole discussed the four funding elements to parks right now is the recreation center, construction of large regional parks, smaller capital projects and the extra operations and maintenance. He commented on the discussion staff and the committee is having regarding on whether we should ask the voters for everything on our wish list or do we cut some of the funding elements and just ask for a portion of them.

Chairman MacLean said we need to lump everything and do it as one big package deal. He believes it

would show the city as being visionary and give the voters something to do bold.

Board member Dickerson said she believed this was a way to leverage the special user groups in the community by having all the funding elements offered together.

Elyse Monat asked how much an average homeowner is currently paying on PD1, the net difference. Mayor Cole said it is about \$60 dollars.

Board member Clark asked if the Park Maintenance Districts residents could be notified of any changes to their taxes. Mr. Whitaker said yes, we have the names and addresses of every parcel owner in those districts.

Ms. Monet asked if we have enough money added to the funding proposal for trail maintenance. Mr. Pigg said yes, there are dollars added for trail maintenance. He also said that any time we do a development project now; there is a funding source for operations and maintenance.

Mr. Thomson said there is also being proposed that there is up to a million dollars' worth of sustainable improvements that could go to finish park master plans and for matching grants.

C. Parks Board Discussion:

Board member Clark announced the Partners for Parks is doing a fundraiser Friday April 28.

AJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 12:19 PM

(Please note these are summary minutes; this meeting is recorded and available to the public for any additional information discussed)