



PRC PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Monthly Meeting

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2023

LOCATION: Parks & Recreation Office Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

PRC Board Members: Jon Thompson, Mark Sulser, Thom MacLean, Jim Rott, Laura Drager, Chuck Platt, Jamie Clark, Melissa Henderson

PRPL Staff Members: Mike Pigg, PRPL Director; Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent; Cole McQuillan, Projects Manager

City Staff Members: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator; Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator; Elyse Monat, Planning

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Thom MacLean called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM

INTRODUCTIONS:

Board Chair introduced Mike Pigg as the new PRPL Director
Molly VanBinsbergen, Public attendee

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman MacLean requested a motion on the April 12, 2023, board minutes. ***Board member Laura Drager made a motion to approve. Board member Jon Thompson seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.***

DIRECTORS REPORT: Mike Pigg said due to some minor changes to the bond issue presentation, it will not be presented at today's meeting. He said it should be ready for next month's meeting.

Board member Thompson asked when the budget would be voted on by Council. Assistant City Administrator Iffland said the budget was already voted on and approved. Board member Thompson asked when the bond issue would go before Council. Mr. Iffland said end of July.

Chairman MacLean asked if the bond issue will be presented as a one or two question vote. Mr. Pigg said it will be presented as a one question vote.

Board member Thompson asked what the final number of the bond would be. Mr. Pigg said \$142 million.

Board member Clark asked what the additional trail projects were. Mr. Pigg said Yellowjacket Trail, the culvert underneath Highway 3, 25th street bridge, and trail down to Coulson Park.

Elyse said they went out for two grants for the Rose Park trail project. She said we only received the \$100,00 for the trail that starts at Rose Park Elementary and travels to meet up at Rose Park. The second grant application we did not receive was for \$75,000 and that money would have gone for repairs to the concrete at Rose Park or built a connection to the apartments near Rose.

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Recreation Update on Pools and Programs-Kory Thomson:

- Pools opened and camps started last week
- We are at 45 lifeguards this year which is a substantial increase from the last couple of years.
- Our swim instructors are training this week; next week swim lessons start
- Next week a lot of our aquatics camp's start
- Camps are full
- 32 camp counselors
- We have over a hundred seasonal staff
- Rec2U starts this week Friday at Hawthorne Park; staff will be offering free activities to all ages. Rec2U is every Friday in the summer at Hawthorne and Highland Parks. He said staff is looking at expanding to eight parks next year.

Board member Thompson asked if staff was able to start marketing the areas around the parks being used for Rec2U. Mr. Thomson said yes, staff sent out flyers to the schools before kids were let out and flyers are at the shelters located in those two parks. Board members Dragger and Henderson both said they saw the Rec2U being advertised on Facebook.

Board member Jim Rott asked Kory if the raise in seasonal wages helped to contribute to more seasonal staff this year. Mr. Thomson said he thought it played a factor.

Board member Clark asked how transportation is handled to get kids and staff to various places. Mr. Thomson said we have 3 shuttle buses. He said we are moving towards getting passenger vans that do not require CDL's to drive.

Mr. Thomson said picnic shelters and buildings have been virtually filled up every weekend. He said we have a ton a events coming up in parks such as Summerfair and Symphony in the Park.

B. Projects Update-Cole McQuillan:

- Currently working on multiple playground projects; Castlerock, Arrowhead, Commanche Parks
- Highland Park playground is also getting replaced; equipment has been ordered
- Working on Central Park tennis courts; close to wrapping up on this project
- Working in North Park on several projects; adult exercise equipment (has been ordered) and the new shelter by the playground/splash pad area.

Board member Chuck Platt asked if the building was going to be tore down. Mr. McQuillan said the restroom will be demolished. Mr. Pigg said the recreation center does not get touched.

Board member Thompson asked how many new playgrounds have been installed or in the works over the last two or three years. Mr. McQuillan said we were averaging about 2 per year but with the additional grant funding we have averaged about 3-4.

C. Request to Rename a Park in Falcon Ridge PMD-Mike Pigg:

Citizen representative Molly VanBinsbergen presented a proposal to name a greenspace/park in the Falcon Ridge Subdivision after Lillian McBride. The greenspace is currently nameless and is considered parkland. It is located between Western Bluffs Boulevard, Peregrine Lane, and Golden Acres. Area residents are wanting to honor Ms. McBride by naming this park after her. Currently, residents are in support in naming the park. Under the City's Park and Recreation naming policy a person must be deceased, and Ms. McBride currently is not. The residents are asking for an exception to this policy to name this parkland after her.

Chairman MacLean asked staff for their recommendation to the board on this naming proposal. Mr. Pigg said he has hard time going against a policy because he believes policies are there for a reason and because of this, staff does not support her proposal. He said he has spoken to Ms. VanBinsbergen about this and expressed that he does believe Ms. McBride is a good person and deserves having the park named after her but it goes against policy.

Board member Drager asked Ms. VanBinsbergen if any of the residents/neighbors did not support the name change. Mr. VanBinsbergen said there was one person who did not sign the petition for naming the park because they were renters. She said she also only asked the residents around the park. Mr. Pigg said he should be receiving a letter of support from the HOA, but it has not arrived yet.

Comment from Board member Platt was to just name the park after Ms. McBride.

Board member Henderson asked if Mr. and Mrs. McBride were told about naming the park after Lillian and thought it would be valuable to ask them.

Board member Laura Drager made a motion that we support making this parkland Lillian Park.

Board member Platt seconded. Chairman MacLean asked for further discussion on the motion.

Mr. MacLean said he thought it was a great idea but did agree with staff that we should stick with the policy. Board member Thompson said he would agree with MacLean and would vote no on this motion. Board member Platt asked if this policy has actually been put in place. Mr. Pigg said we have had people come to us with requests, but it has never come to this level. Board member Clark asked if the park was named what would have to happen next; would signage go up. Mr. Pigg said we currently do not have signage out there nor do we have money for signage. He said the neighborhood would have to come up with funding for signage. Board member Rott suggested naming the garden instead and maybe have a plaque built.

Chairman MacLean said there was a motion on the table and seconded, in a show of hands, Chuck

Platt and Laura Drager were in favor; Jim Rott, Melissa Henderson, Jamie Clark, Jon Thompson, and Thom MacLean were against, Mark Sulser abstained; 2/5 and the motion failed.

Board member Jim Rott made a motion to name the garden after Liliian McBride and further move that some funding be provided or acquired for a plaque to tell her story. Board member Jon Thompson seconded the motion. Chairman MacLean asked for discussion on the motion.

Mr. Pigg said that due to this area being in a Park Maintenance District there is currently no funds available to provide any kind of plaque or sign. Ms. VanBinsbergen said the HOA has said they would support funding for a plaque or bench.

Chairman MacLean asked for an all-in favor to say I, all were in favor except for Mark Sulser who abstained, and the motion passed.

D. Parks Board Discussion-Thom MacLean:

Board member Drager asked about a previous discussion on some property in the Riverfront Park area. Assistant City Administrator Iffland said the information was given to the City's Legal Department and he is not sure where it is at. City Administrator Kukulski said we would need to do a follow-up on that.

AJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM

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