

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2009
Dehler Park Conference Room



ATTENDEES:

PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Rick DeVore, Rachel Cox, Darwin George, Gary Gray, Todd Royal, Margy Bonner

PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Public Attendees: Gary Roller, Joe Studner, Woody Hahn, the Mustang accountant, and Matt Hagengruber of the Billings Gazette

B. APPROVAL OF THE April 8, 2009 MINUTES

Chair Iverson requested a motion to approve the April 8th minutes. Board member Gary Gray so moved. All were in favor and motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

No report

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis said the needs assessment survey is being printed and will be send out either the third or fourth week in June. He said the timeline on the study should be 3-4 weeks out with the results ready by the end of July or first

week in August. The consultant will be returning to Billings to do a presentation on the results.

A. FY10 Budget:

Mr. Whitaker gave a PowerPoint presentation on a revised copy of the 2010 budget for the Parks, Recreation and Lands Department. (A copy of the budget is included in the June board documents) Mr. Whitaker requested an action be taken on the budget. Board member Rachel Cox made a recommendation to approve the Parks, Recreation and Lands Department 2010 Budget. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. All were in favor and the recommended motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mustangs 2008 Financial Statements and 2009 Budget:

The Board discussed the financial statements and budget. The Mustangs are required to provide financial statements to the Stadium Review Committee as per the agreement with the City Of Billings. The review committee consists of one board member; Rick DeVore, Director of the Parks and Recreation department and Gary Roller, manager of the Billings Mustangs. Board member Rick DeVore said the review committee has met to review the statements. He said the statements showed total income and total expenses broken down along with revealing that the Mustangs have donated several items for the new ball field, they are not relying on the city in any way, they are providing money back to the benefit of the city through stadium improvements and they are a solid organization.

B. Ballpark Maintenance Fund:

Director Mike Whitaker reported Dehler Park maintenance fund is currently at \$262,609.00 in revenue and \$4,559.00 in expenditures. Source of revenue is from the sale of bricks, plaques, and three sources who are donating funds of \$130,000 over a ten-year period. No other revenue is coming in at this time for maintenance.

C. Dandelions in the Parks:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson reported the dandelion population is extremely high this year in our parks. He said due to weather conditions this year and from previous years along with the lack of weed control in certain areas it has caused the dandelions to increase.

Mr. Thompson explained that the department is able to spray for weeds in the Park Maintenance Districts parks because it is funded through assessments to do so. He said however, that they are unable to spray or treat for weeds in the general fund parks such as Pioneer, Rose, Veterans, South, North and Central because there is no funding. He said costs to spray the general parks would run around \$61-62,000. Mr. Thompson did say that Little League has helped with costs in keeping the weeds down in the fields.

D. Sale of Park Land:

Mr. Whitaker said City Council is discussing selling parkland as a way to help fund some of our needs. He said he would like the Board to be proactive with this as City Council is looking towards that direction. He along with Mark Jarvis will be putting a list of criteria together and presenting it at the next board meeting for feedback.

E. Possible Funding Sources:

Board member Rick DeVore said he met with a friend who is interested in Phipps Park and was talking about some of the degradation going on there. He asked Mr. DeVore if he knew of the Ortenberg Foundation that was started by Liz Claiborne to develop stuff all over the world. Mr. DeVore said this foundation has done development in Red Lodge with wildlife areas. He said maybe a development plan could be put together for Phipps Park and be presented to this foundation for possible funding.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin reported opening day of the city pools was today. He said they have retrofitted all the pools drains as required by the federal government with new covers. Mr. Fedin said WebTrac registration since we started on May 1 to date has generated over \$30,000 in revenue. He said registration for summer programs is going well. He said this year they have plenty of lifeguards as compared to last year and due to weather conditions lifeguard training was held at the MSU-B swimming pools.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson gave a written and oral report.

Mr. Thompson said Northwestern Energy will be donating their time in removing the Elm trees at Central Park along the Central Avenue side. These trees are in tough shape and need to be removed. He said they have also agreed to pay for new trees.

Mr. Thompson reported there is a potential problem with Japanese Leaf Beetle breakout in town. The Japanese Leaf Beetle is known for destroying turf. It is believed to have been brought in on an airplane. Mr. Thompson said if there is a breakout throughout the community Yellowstone County will be quarantined and all turf growers, sod growers and tree farmers will not be able to sell outside of the community. Mr. Thompson said they have currently found the epic center of the beetle problem on the MDU-B campus. He said MSU-B has been treating the problem. He said Parks department who is also been treated Grandview Park located next to MSU-B to try to contain the situation.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Update report was included in the board packet.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:
Update report was included in the board packet.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1 pm