

# MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE  
AND LOCATION: October 21, 2009  
Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:  
Tom Iverson, Rachel Cox, Todd Royal, Margy Bonner,  
Catherine Grott  
PRPL Staff Members:  
Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director  
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent  
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent  
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent  
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner

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## I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

### A. INTRODUCTIONS

None

### B. APPROVAL OF THE September 9th, 2009 MINUTES

*Chairman Iverson made a correction to the September minutes. No other additions or corrections were made. Minutes were left to stand by Mr. Iverson.*

### C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions

## II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Director Mike Whitaker said Recreation Supervisor Kory Thomson has been elected as president of the Montana Recreation Parks Association (MRPA) and Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin has been given the position as Communication Director. Mike also said Billings has been chosen for the 2011 MRPA conference. Staff will participate in hosting the event.
- Mr. Whitaker announced the next Board meeting has been changed from November 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Offices will be closed for Veterans Day.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

## IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **A. Heights Pool Project:**

Mr. Whitaker said City Council has voted to extend the deadline to November 29<sup>th</sup> for the Better Billings Foundation (BBF) to work out an agreement with the city. He said there is currently a tentative agreement that both parties are agreeing too. He hopes to bring back the final agreement to the Park Board on November 18<sup>th</sup> for review and a recommendation.

Board member Margy Bonner asked if there was a committee hammering out the agreement. Mr. Whitaker said yes, it consists of himself, City Administrator Tina Volek, BBF representative Chuck Barthuly, City Attorney Brent Brooks, BBF's attorney Andy Holstein.

### **B. High Sierra Park Master Plan Update:**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis said the master plan update has been approved by City Council. He said the department now has the permission to move forward on the development of a dog park at the location.

A question was asked if the plan included the dog park. Mr. Jarvis said yes.

### **C. Pioneer Park Master Plan Update Board Representatives:**

Mr. Whitaker said they are starting to move forward on updating the Pioneer Park Master Plan. He hopes to have updates completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Whitaker made a request to have several Board members participate in updating the plan. Chairman Iverson and Ms. Cox expressed interest and said they would assist.

Ms. Bonner asked if there would be any public meetings held on the updated plan. Mr. Whitaker said yes.

### **D. Dog Park Update:**

Mr. Jarvis said the dog park committee is starting their fundraising efforts. They are holding a key partners meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> for individuals directly involved with dogs such as veterinarians, dog groomers and pet suppliers to get help and support in spreading the word on dog parks.

He said they also plan to hold a public kick-off celebration on November 5<sup>th</sup> to give information on future development and get public support.

Ms. Cox informed the Board that the total cost for developing three dog parks will be around \$400,000.

Chairman Iverson asked if High Sierra Park would be done first. Mr. Jarvis said yes; Riverfront Park may proceed in conjunction with or shortly behind after High Sierra depending on funds. He also said that High Sierra will be the most expensive and the most developed. Riverfront Park will be more of a natural area.

Mr. Jarvis gave a list of items that will be needed for the parks, which include irrigation, fencing, signage, shelters, trees and appropriate pickup facilities.

Board member Catherine Grott asked about the bricks and what would be on them. Mr. Jarvis said it would be similar to the ones at the Dehler stadium; they would put a name/message and then the option to put a symbol like a dog paw. He said they will not be allowing any logos or inappropriate language.

Mr. Jarvis announced that Mr. Fedin is working on creating a web page for Billings Dog Parks. The website link will be [www.billingsdogparks.com](http://www.billingsdogparks.com). He hopes to have it up and running by November 5th.

Mr. Jarvis said a informational dog park postcard has been created with the help of Board member Rachel Cox.

Mr. Jarvis passed out a copy of the dog park brochure. He made a request for the board to approve the brochure before printing. *Board member Margy Bonner moved to approve the brochure. Board member Todd Royal seconded. All were in favor.*

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Joint City & County Parks and Recreation Board Joint Meeting:**

Mr. Whitaker made a request for the Board to have a joint meeting with the County Park and Recreation Board to discuss issues as it relates to parks in the Billings area such as Two Moon Park and Zimmerman Park. Board members agreed and plans were underway to setup a special meeting with them.

## **VI. DIVISION UPDATES**

### **A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:**

- Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin passed out for board review the financial reports on the aquatics and summer recreation programs. He noted it had been the worst year in fifteen years and that was attributed to the cooler weather. (Copies of the reports are included in October Board packet)

Reports indicated the following results; a record low in the pool attendance and revenue; a low in attendance at the batting cages; a good year in concessions; an increase in Showmobil and shelter rentals; a decrease in attendance to summer camp; an increase in newer individual program camps such as archery.

- Mr. Fedin reported the two new recreation buses have finally arrived. He said delays were due to a problem with one of the diesel engines. He commented that they are very nice vehicles.

- Mr. Fedin said there are plans to replace nine pool covers and blankets over the next three years. Funds will be generated out of the wages for the two lifeguards at South wading pool that was closed this past year.

**B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:**

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson reviewed his printed report with the board.

**C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:**

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave a printed report. No additional information was given.

**D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:**

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet. No additional information was given.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**