

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE March 10, 2010
AND LOCATION: Community Center



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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Public attending were Karlee Royal, Oscar Heinrech Jr., Woody Hahn, Gary Roller, Wyeth Friday, Don Vanica, Jim Collins, Stella Fong

B. APPROVAL OF THE February 10, 2010 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson made a request to have the February minutes approved. Board member Catherine Grott made a motion to approve. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. On a voice vote all present approved and motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Iverson announced that there would be a time for public comment after each item on the agenda.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Mr. Whitaker announced there would be a special Park and Recreation board meeting on March 24th to discuss the Pioneer Park Master Plan.
- Mr. Whitaker said the department is working on developing a mission and vision statement. John Brewer of the Billings Chamber has offered to volunteer his time to help facilitate in creating the statements.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Billings Mustangs' Financial Report:

Mr. Whitaker gave an overview of the current agreement with the Mustangs regarding providing an annual financial report to the city. A copy of the report was sent out to the board for review. Mustang President Woody Hahn and manager Gary Roller were present at the meeting for any questions regarding the report.

Board member Rick DeVore wanted to know who was responsible to pay for the replacement of a door window that was broken out on one of the buildings. Park Superintendent Jon Thompson said the city's insurance fund covered the costs of the repairs. Mr. Thompson said the outside of the building is the city's responsibility; anything inside the stadium is taken care of by the Mustangs.

Chairman Iverson asked if the beer sales were reflected in the numbers. Mr. Roller said it is included within the concessions revenue.

Mr. Iverson asked about the requirement to provide a budget before each year. Mr. Roller said the budget is not ready; they are still gathering more accurate costs in terms of baseball operations.

Mr. Iverson asked if any of the revenue the Mustangs receive goes back into the community to non-profits such as Little League or various organizations. Mr. Roller said yes.

Mr. DeVore asked if the Mustangs were looking into any modifications or additions to the stadium this year. Mr. Roller said their plan to have an additional corporate area behind the batters eye has been postponed; so no, there is nothing major planned this year.

B. Billings Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

The Billings Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee were present at the meeting for the purpose of bringing improvement and more communication between the committee and the Parks and Recreation Board regarding trails in the Billings area.

Mr. Whitaker started the discussion by giving a brief presentation on the overview of the facilities the Parks and Recreation Department manage. Committee Vice-Chair Jim Colins followed with an overview of the committee's purpose and plans as it relates to trails and non-roadways in the Billings area. (A copy of the overview is included in the board packet)

A question was asked if the city's funds maintain the trails through the subdivision parks. Mr. Whitaker said the Park Maintenance Districts pay for the maintenance of the trails.

It was commented how several of the trails have served as sidewalks within the communities such as Ironwood.

A question was asked if it becomes a maintenance issue if staff are maintaining trails not within park maintenance districts. Mr. Thompson said because there are no additional funds to maintain those trails it has become an issue.

Board member Margy Bonner wanted to know what the big picture is regarding the area down by Zoo Drive. Guest attendee Darling Tussing said the trail along Shiloh Road ends at Zoo Drive. She said there is talk about connecting Riverfront Park to Shiloh. She said there currently is no direct route connecting the two together. It would have to take a creativity to make it possible.

A question was asked if the trail along Shiloh will be part of Park Maintenance or will Streets and Traffic maintain it. Mr. Thompson said it will be Streets and Traffic who maintains it. He did say that currently there is a portion of the Shiloh trail that is maintained by the Parks department. This section is located up between Rimrock and Poly.

Mr. Fedin expressed concern regarding taking on more trails and there not be any maintenance plan in place.

A comment was made how important it is to have a City Wide Maintenance District to help pay for things such as maintaining a trail.

V. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendant Joe Fedin gave the following oral report:

- Final budget for the department is due in today.
- This coming Saturday night, hosting for the website will be changing.
- Working on the 2010 summer brochure. It should be ready for the printer the first week of April. The brochure will be out in the Billings Gazette on Sunday, May 2nd.
- This year's annual MRPA conference will be a tri-state conference held in late September at Yellowstone National Park. Board members are welcome to attend.
- The first soundstage rental is scheduled for this weekend for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- There looks to be a possibility of several changes to our aquatics due to new changes in the pool aquatic rules from the Department of Health and Human Services. Some of the changes may include lifeguards at our spray decks and fencing around spray decks.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Parks Superintendent Jon Thompson gave the following oral report in addition to his written report:

- The crew is working on trees at Frances Park. They are in the process of dissecting what stage the Mountain Pine Beetle is in.
- The tree inventory is about complete; about five more parks still need to be done. So far 750 pine trees have been identified and 500 of the most valued will be sprayed against the Mountain Pine Beetle. The spraying should take place sometime in April or May.
- A picture of the new Skate Park bathroom was passed around for everyone to see. The cost estimate is around \$46,000. The self-contained bathroom will be made of concrete, include stainless steel toilets, and be lockable from the inside. It should last at least 40-50 years.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave the following oral report in addition to his written report:

- The second public meeting on the Pioneer Park Master Plan was held last week. Several good comments came out of the meeting regarding the plan. The forth Pioneer Park Master Plan newsletter summarizing where we are at currently with the project will be coming out either today or tomorrow. Included in the newsletter will be the comments from the public meeting, the narrative/presentation from the consultants, and the three alternatives.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

1:25 pm