

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE April 21, 2010
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Rick DeVore, Todd Royal, Gary Gray, Catherine Grott, Darwin George, Margy Bonner
PRPL Staff Members:
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Manager
Dean Sjolseth, Park Supervisor

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

County Park Board members Cal Cumin, Roger Boss, Bruce Larsen, Lisa VonLaven, Bernie Rose; Public guest Oscar Hernrich Jr.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10 AND MARCH 24, 2010 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson made a request to have the March 10 and March 24 minutes approved. Board member Margy Bonner made a motion to approve the March 10 minutes. Board member Todd Royal seconded. On a voice vote all present approved and motion passed.

Board member Catherine Grott made a motion to approve the March 24 minutes. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. On a voice vote all present approved and motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker was not present at the meeting. No report was given.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. County Park Board:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis gave a brief overview of Parks, Recreation and Public Lands department operations.

County Park Board member Cal Cummins asked what is the department's operations budget. Park Superintendent Jon Thompson said it is around 3.5-3.2 million.

Mr. Cummins asked what is the function of the Park Board. Board Chair Iverson said it acts as an advisory board that makes recommendations to City Council regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. He said it also provides oversight to the department.

A question was asked what the relation is to the Parks Director to the board. Mr. Iverson said he provides direction and works for the city.

A question was asked who sets the agenda for the board meetings. It was said that the Park and Recreation Director sets the agenda but also contacts the chair to see if there is anything he/she would like to add.

Mr. Cummins gave a brief overview of the County Park Board operations. He said the County Board is a nine member advisory board whose members are appointed by the County Commissioners. The board meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm. They advise both County and City. Mr. Cummins said their operating budget is around \$48,000 and comes from the general fund or cash-in-lieu. Operating costs include repairs, maintenance, and wages for Mr. Cummins. He said one of the ways they make money is through the leasing of parkland. The county owes approximately seventy-five parks across the county, some being located as far away as 1 1/2 hours and over 100 acres in size. Two of the more popular parks are Two Moon and Zimmerman. Ninety-five percent of the parkland is undeveloped. Mr. Cummins mentioned that the board volunteers a lot of time in maintaining county parkland due to the lack of funds to hire full time park maintenance staff.

A question was asked by the Park Board as to how long their term limit is on the County Board. It was reported that it is around three years.

A question was asked by the Park Board on whether the County was considering a countywide park maintenance district. It was commented that they were not considering it.

A question was asked by the Park Board if the County has sold some of their land. The County Board said yes they have.

A question was asked if the County has considered putting in a pit toilet/bathroom at Zimmerman Park. The County said they have concerns with vandalism and the stuff they do to restrooms that they probably won't put one there. They said they have a real problem already there with graffiti.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendant Joe Fedin gave the following oral report:

- The recreation division is currently taking applications for seasonal positions.
- The summer brochure is finished and includes an additional four more pages and a list of major park events on the back cover.
- Mr. Fedin said he is developing 60 web pages of summer activities for the PRPL website. He said they plan to go live with the brochure before May 2.
- Mr. Fedin said this would be the second year of online registrations.
- Over forty use permits have been issued so far this year.
- The department is busy with soundstage rentals.
- The new pool rules are requiring a five-foot fence around all spray decks.
- South Pool liner will be replaced at no cost by Thompson Pools this spring before the pools open. The current liner is bad shape.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Parks Superintendent Jon Thompson gave the following oral report:

- First week in May, the park division will begin spraying 643 trees for the Mountain Pine Beetle. Mr. Thompson said in addition to our city park pine trees being sprayed, trees located at Par 3, the Billings Operations Center and the Billings Logan International Airport will also be sprayed. He said the department is looking into getting several companies to do the spraying. Concerns were made by the board if the public would be notified when the trees would be sprayed. Mr. Thompson reassured the board that most of the spraying would be done early in the morning before the public would arrive at the parks but there are plans to send out PSA's prior to the spraying and that signs would be posted in the sprayed areas.
- Mr. Thompson said the department has several volunteer projects with various groups and businesses coming up. Volunteers will be planting trees, renovations landscaping, painting and other various jobs throughout several parks.
- Mr. Thompson said there have been several questions regarding the opening of bathrooms in city parks. He informed the board that bathrooms will be opened on May 3, weather permitting. Mr. Thompson said bathrooms are not opened during the winter due to staffing and weather. Park Supervisor Dean Sjolseth said there are 18 bathrooms that are opened at 5 am and closed at 10 pm daily. Mr. Sjolseth said each of the bathrooms also needs to be cleaned, restocked and trash removed regularly. Mr. Sjolseth said Riverfront and Coulson are kept open because they are pit toilets. Board member Catherine Grott asked if the new Skatepark bathroom would be open and closed daily too. Mr. Sjolseth said yes due to concerns of it being vandalized.

- Seasonal training has begun for the parks division. Mr. Sjolseth said they have several seasonal staff returning.
- The new trashcans are now in place at our parks. They have significantly changed the look of the parks for the better. One of the new cans is located in the entrance of the Park and Recreation office for viewing. They are dark brown in color with our logo stamped in white.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was included in the board packet. Chairman Iverson asked if Mr. Jarvis thought the City Council would approve the Pioneer Park Master Plan. Mr. Jarvis said the department gave a good presentation on the plan at the Council work session. He said there are a few concerns regarding the methodology from the public. He said he feels good that the Council will pass it.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet. In addition to his report, Mr. Stadtmiller announced that there is a picture of him and an article on Mountview Cemetery in the American Cemetery Magazine.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

1:05 pm