

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE June 9, 2010
AND LOCATION: Community Center



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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Chuck Barthuly with the Better Billings Foundation and Lyle Hill with the Billings Optimist.

B. APPROVAL OF THE May 17, 2010 MINUTES

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

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board member Rick DeVore asked for discussion on Rush Park be added to the agenda. Chairman Iverson said it would be added under Unfinished Business.

I. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Mr. Whitaker said the department has been working with Pepsi and the Parks, Recreation, and Preservation Foundation on promoting this department. Pepsi has come forward in facilitating a beverage cup that will be used in the Billings area and will have both the Foundation's and the Park and Recreation Departments information on it.
- Mr. Whitaker announced we will be having our first major community event at Dehler Park Stadium on September 24th. The Bike Net has decided to hold their annual Ales for Trails there this year.
- Mr. Whitaker said City Council will have a public hearing on June 14th regarding the Pioneer Park Master Plan.

- Mr. Whitaker said the board will be looking at the free pool pass program sometime this winter. He said the department would like the board to look at it and make any recommendations to City Council.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board member Catherine Grott wanted to thank Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin for coming through with the PA system for the sound stage at the Food For Thought event.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Optimist Club Shelter Project:

Mr. Whitaker said that Lyle Hill from the Billings Optimist Club came to the department several months telling us that the club would like to give back to the community and would like to do something for this department. Mr. Whitaker said we have been working with them in coming up with a project.

Mr. Hill said they have decided to build a picnic shelter at Optimist Park. The shelter will be 24 by 36 with a cement pad located close to the south end of the park. He said the club has the money to build shelter but they are looking at other companies/individuals that might be willing to donate money towards it so the current funds for the project can be used for other projects within the community. Mr. Hill said they would like to start building as soon as they can.

D. Swords Park Trail Phase II:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis announced that funding is in place to move forward on Phase II of Swords Park Trail. This phase will connect into the east end of the existing trail; go up over the top past Yellowstone Counties grave, past skeleton cliff all the way down to the 6th street cutoff. It will tie into the bridge/tunnel under airport road and tie into the south side interchange of Aronson and Airport Road.

He said an RFP will be going out on Friday for a consultant. Mr. Jarvis said they will go through a selection process for the consultant. Mr. Whitaker asked the board for one individual off the board to be on the selection committee. Board member Margy Bonner said she would do it.

A question was asked if there are plans to take the trail along the rims and down Zimmerman. Mr. Jarvis said yes that is the plan. He also said that Black Otter trail will tie into the trail.

Mr. DeVore asked where the funding is coming from. Mr. Jarvis said it is coming from CTEP and the Department of Energy Recovery Reinvestment Funds. Total funding is around \$780,000.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Heights Pool Project:

Chuck Barthuly from the Better Billings Foundation was at the meeting to give a presentation on the foundations fundraising campaign for the Heights pool project. Highlights from the presentation are as follows:

- “Pool Together” is the theme name of the campaign
- The foundation is asking for a three-year commitment.
- Mr. Barthuly emphasized that they are not just looking at building a pool but a water park.
- Features of the water park include; interactive play structure with two water slides, current channel, water basketball feature (which would be a removable entity), and wave generator.
- Mr. Barthuly said they are working on a grant from the FDA for a concession area to provide nutritional items.
- Mr. Barthuly said it would include a recreational/meeting room area that they plan to keep open year-round for groups to use.
- Projected rate structure for entering the water park will be; \$7.95/adults, \$5.95/youth, \$6.95/seniors, and \$199 for an annual family pass. One fee for the full use of the water park.
- Mr. Barthuly said they hope to start construction in June of 2011 and open in 2012.
- Still need to raise \$1.3 million dollars
- Total construction costs to build the project are \$4 million.
- They will be offering at least 40 good paying jobs once they open.

Mr. DeVore asked Chuck how many people he thought it would take to break even. Mr. Barthuly said around 35,000 attendees/visits.

Chairman Iverson asked if they are set-up as a 501c 3. Mr. Barthuly said yes and the foundation is separate from Harvest Church.

A question was asked as to when they plan to open the pool for the season. Mr. Barthuly said it would probably be similar to the Park and Recreation pools; open possibly on weekends before school gets out and then close in or around the time school starts.

E. Little League’s Baseball Field Project at Centennial Park:

Board member Rick DeVore updated the board on the baseball field project at Centennial Park. He said the fencing is up; dug outs are in and they are waiting for the backstop to be put in. Mr. DeVore said they have sterilized the ground for weeds and if weather permits, they plan to go in on Friday to rota till to turn up all the weeds stems and roots. He said once that is done they can move forward with irrigation and hydro seeding. He said they plan on putting a building behind home plate along with bleachers but they have to wait until the backstop is in place. Mr. DeVore said they hope to play and practice on the field next year.

Mr. Whitaker asked Mr. DeVore to explain what the Parks Department is doing regarding this project. Mr. DeVore said he had called Park Superintendent Jon Thompson on mowing down the weeds. He also said Little League will be purchasing seed for the water retention area and having the department seed it.

D. Rush Park (Added to the agenda the day of the meeting):

Mr. DeVore asked what was going on at Rush Park. Mr. Jarvis said they are looking into developing a park there. He said they are sending out straw pole to

area residents asking if they either agree or object to any development there. He said if they receive an approximant amount in favor the department will move forward on its development.

I. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin gave the following oral report:

- Swimming pools opened today for the season.
- We had number of issues with pool repairs. The drain covers that were installed last year at Rose were not installed correctly and we needed to reseal areas around the covers and replace the bolts. We also had one small tear in the Rose pool liner that was glued back together. Mr. Fedin said they still need to replace the liner soon. He said they rebuilt the pump at Rose. South had its water pump fixed and several other items repaired.
- Kids concerts have started at Dehler.
- Currently, we are around \$29,000 in web registrations alone. Several of our classes are already filled up.
- The new buses are up and running.
- The DBA has backed out on using the soundstage for Alive After 5.
- Using an energy grant to update facilities.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Parks Superintendent Jon Thompson was not present at the meeting, so no oral or written was given.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis reported that the department is working on their Dog Park Fundraising. The Dog Park Committee has planned to do a 2k and 5k Fun Run on August 14 at High Sierra Park to get support for the dog parks. They will also be at PetSmart on July 10 and Cabela's on July 24 passing out information.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was passed out to all board members at the meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:05 pm