

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE March 9, 2011
AND LOCATION: Community Center



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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Donna Forbes

B. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2011 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson made a request to have the February 9, 2011 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

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker reported that the Billings Baseball Preservation Society (BBPS) gave a presentation Monday night at the council work session for a baseball museum to be built at Dehler. Mr. Whitaker said council seemed receptive to the idea. A resolution to approve the concept of the building will be presented at an upcoming council meeting. Mr. DeVore who is on the BBPS said the society will have three years to raise the three million for construction and maintenance. He said they will also have \$100,000 in an escrow account if the BBPS is unable to continue providing the funding for the museum and it had to be handed to the city for its funding.

Mr. DeVore asked if it is required to update the Dehler Park Master Plan to include the museum. Staff commented that they were not sure at this time but would look into it.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Art Donation Policy:

Ad-hoc Art Committee member Donna Forbes gave an overview on what the committee is currently working on. She stated that they are trying to set up a policy of means in accepting works of art that are donated to the city for public display on city property. She said they are looking into other cities around the country and their current public art policies. Once the copy of the draft policy is finished, it will be brought back to the board for review.

Chairman Iverson asked Donna if the committee has looked at the piece of art that is currently asked to be donated to the city. Ms. Forbes said yes and they are trying to set up the policy around it. She said that you have to be very careful on what kind of art you accept. She also said that an informed decision needs to be made in accepting art.

The board questioned on whether plaques in city parks should be included in this policy. It was commented that plaques really are not considered artwork but a policy should be created for specifically for plaques.

B. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mr. Whitaker said after speaking with the city administrator, she has expressed for the board to move forward on their recommendation and have it completed prior to the November election. He said they also have a meeting scheduled with the financial director of Missoula to start talking about the paperwork needed to move this forward. Mr. Whitaker said that Board member Margy Bonner has volunteered to start putting together the legal documents needed to move it forward to have a legal department to review.

He said that John Brewer from the Chamber has requested us to give the funding presentation to the Chamber Board.

It was asked if the citywide park district is something council might want to put on the ballot. Mr. Whitaker said as of right now, no. He said things could change.

A question was asked on what we were going to recommend regarding the PMD's. It was expressed that there is no defiant answer as of right now. It was suggested for the board to do their homework, review the options we have for the PMD's, make a decision and then present to Council one strongly supported option. Another comment was to present all the options to council but let them know which one the board strongly supports. Mr. Thompson commented not to make it too complicated with too many options. He said it makes it too confusing. Mr. DeVore suggested making a graph showing our options and amounts.

Some of the board suggestions regarding PMD's were to; keep everything in place as they currently are in the PMD's, keep them currently in place right now but look at them eventually, eliminate all the PMD's, eliminate most of the PMD's but keep the five with streets and lighting or have everyone pay the same in assessments but allow a subdivision the option to remain a PMD and pay the additional taxes.

Mr. Thompson commented that the level of service is higher in PMD's than in our general fund parks.

A question was asked if SID's would still be an option for neighborhoods wanting to build/create a park. It was commented that yes it would be.

A comment was made that after speaking with a council member it was suggested for the department to use portion of the assessment money to be set aside in a capitol improvement fund.

Mr. Whitaker said it is his understanding from the board that we need to make another presentation to council and for part of that presentation to include a couple options and make a recommendation on how to handle the PMD's.

A question was asked what the procedures are in using the money. Mr. Whitaker explained that there would first be a budget amendment that we received 1 or 2 million dollars. We would then keep council informed of the projects we are working on and then we would follow all the normal city procedures for purchasing and contracts.

Mr. Whitaker said he will schedule another work session with council to make another presentation and include the boards' recommendations regarding the PMD's. Chairman Iverson requested for the board to come to an agreement on which option at the next board meeting.

V. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin printed report was handed out at the meeting. In addition to his report, he commented that the department is getting ready for summer. Applications for summer seasonals are already coming in. The department is moving ahead on purchasing the pool liner for Rose.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson printed report was handed out at the meeting. In addition to his report, Mr. Thompson told the board that the Skatepark restroom would be arriving tomorrow, March 10 around 10am.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was included in the board packet. No additional questions or comments.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet. No additional comments or questions.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:10 pm