

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: April 13, 2011
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Rick DeVore, Rachel Cox, Darwin George,
Catherine Grott, Margy Bonner, Dave Williams, Gary Gray

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 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

City Administrator, Tina Volek and public citizen, Brenda Sommerville

B. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 9, 2011 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson made a request to have the March 9, 2011 minutes approved. Board member Margy Bonner made a motion to approve the minutes. Board member Gary Gray seconded. On a voice vote all present approved and motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker asked board member Rachel Cox to give an update on the Dog Park project. Ms. Cox announced the project received a \$25,000 anonymous donation. She said the only catch to receiving the money was that it was to be matched.

Mr. Whitaker said staff, Ms. Cox and the Parks, Recreation, and Preservation Foundation recently did a presentation at the Breakfast Exchange Club for support on dog parks and the foundation.

Mr. Whitaker said John Brewer from the Billings Chamber has requested the board to make a presentation on our funding plan for this department, May 16 at 3pm.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Funding:

City Administrator Tina Volek brought to the boards attention, a concern regarding the board and staff moving forward on the Parks and Recreation funding for a citywide district this fall with the Library's proposal/levy for a new building going on the November ballot. There were concerns on the reactions from voters if they are hit with a new tax on their tax bill for the citywide district during the same time the Library's is trying to get a levy passed on the ballot. A suggestion was made to have the department wait until next year before moving forward on the funding. Mr. Whitaker suggested the board wait on any decision until they have gone before the chamber and gauged chambers level of support. A suggestion was also made to invite the director of the library Bill Cochran to meet with the board at our next meeting and discuss the situation.

B. NEW BUSINESS

A. High Sierra Master Plan:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis said a government class from Skyview High School has come to the department requesting to do a project with us regarding getting approval in a form of a master plan update for disc golf in High Sierra Park. The department feels this is a good project/partnership and has agreed to partner with them.

The class will be doing their first public meeting starting this month at the Heights Task Force. They will be presenting the master plan update, which will include disc golf. Following that meeting, they will hold another public meeting on May 3 and then do a presentation to the Park Board for a recommendation on May 12. Finally, the class will make a presentation to City Council for final adoption of master plan update.

B. Parks and Recreation Top Projects Ranking:

Ms. Volek explained to the board that City Council has contracted with MDU to extract methane gas from the city's landfill. (MDU gives 15% of the gas sales received from the collection of methane back to the City Of Billings.) Ms. Volek said the city is anticipating \$200,000 in generated revenue this year. She said there was discussion at City Council on what was to be done with the money and a suggestion was made for the PRPL board to list four or five projects they would like to see funded if the \$200,000 is made available to the department. After the board reviewed and discussed the departments' top projects, a motion was made.

Board member Catherine Grott recommended that our top priority for the use of the \$200,000 would be for restrooms. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.

C. Centennial Park Scoreboard Proposal:

Mr. DeVore presented a proposal for a new scoreboard at the Centennial Park baseball field located in the corner of Howard Avenue and 33rd Street West. Stockman Bank has agreed to provide the majority portion of the overall cost of the purchase of the scoreboard and has requested a memorandum of agreement between them and the MT District 1 Little League for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the scoreboard. Additional donors to the scoreboard include Buffalo Wild Wings and Pepsi. The scoreboard will be 9 x 14. All maintenance including electrical charges will be provided by Montana District 1 Little League. A request was made for a motion on the proposal. *Board member Margy Bonner made a recommendation to approve the proposal. Board member Rachel Cox seconded. Board member Rick DeVore abstained. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.*

D. Central Park Proposed Concession Building:

A request was made by the Montana District 1 Little League and Burlington Little League to build a 12 x 20-concession stand at Central Park. The stand would be attached to the existing building that holds the restrooms and shelter/kitchen area. The stand would be operated by Burlington Little League and open during Burlington's baseball season. It will be used to serve hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. and all revenue from the sales will go the Burlington Little League. The building would become city property and the city will be responsible for insurance, maintenance, winterizing, graffiti removal, repairs as well as sewer, water and electric.

Board member Gary Gray made a recommendation to approve the proposal. There was no second and the motion died.

Concerns were brought up regarding the city paying for utilities for a facility used by a private entity. Questions were also brought up as to why the city pays for utilities for some and not others.

A suggestion was made to form a committee to discuss the construction of buildings including concession and storage buildings in city parks and do a study to find out what other cities do regarding buildings in their parks. Board members willing to be a part of the committee are Margy, Cathy, Tom, and Rick.

A motion was made by Board member Margy Bonner to approve the proposal for a concession building at Central Park. Board member Darwin George seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

E. 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 passed out the 2011 summer brochure for everyone to have and look at.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson reported the Pioneer Park disc golf summer course is being laid out and basket sockets are be installed. It should be up and

running by the end of April. Mr. Thompson said there were several tennis court repaired this past weekend with the help of the Billings Tennis Association. He said the rock removal project will begin next week Friday, April 22.

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

1:25 pm