

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION:** October 12, 2011
Community Center



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

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

None

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Rachel Cox motioned to approve the September 14, 2011 meeting minutes. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker informed the board that due to ageing playground equipment at Pioneer Park, park staff will be removing a circle slide and swing set for safety purposes.

Mr. Whitaker said construction has begun at Yellowstone Family Park. He said it is moving right along.

Mr. Whitaker said that the Swords Park trail project should be completed by the first week of November. He hopes to talk with the Chamber of Commerce to arrange a grand opening of the trail sometime in November.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer Recreation Report:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin gave the recreation division summer 2011 financial report. A copy of the report was given to the board for review. The report showed an overall good year at the pools and concessions stands but a terrible year at the batting cages. Mr. Fedin said the batting cages were affected this year by cooler weather during the early part of the season.

A question was asked as to where the money from these programs goes. Mr. Fedin said they go back into the general fund.

B. Dog Park Grand Opening:

Board member Rachel Cox invited the board to attend the grand opening of the city's first dog park at High Sierra Park. Ms. Cox said the Friends of Billings Dog Parks committee which she is a member of, has been meeting now for 3 years, and has raised approximately \$65,000 in private money. She said the committee is currently looking into finding a south side and westend location for additional dog parks.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review Cemetery Ordinance:

The board reviewed the Cemetery Ordinance with the proposed changes from last months meeting. Chairman Iverson requested action on the revised ordinance.

Board member Margy Bonner made a motion to approve the Cemetery Ordinance as presented and to have it sent to City Council for final approval and adoption. Board member Gary Gray seconded. On a hand vote, motion was approved unanimously.

B. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mr. Whitaker put together a draft presentation on Park District Talking Points. He touched on the following points:

- Pat Weber, City's Finance Director and the bond council, recommended that we assess based on property valuation. Board member Margy Bonner asked if this would take out the non-profits. Mr. Whitaker said yes. Board member Rick DeVore asked if Rimrock Mall would have to pay. Mr. Whitaker said yes.
- If we move forward on the assessment district and it is voted in by the end of this year, we will not receive any funds until December 2012. A comment was made about borrowing money before December 2012 if this levy should pass. Mr. Whitaker said that is true. He said once this passes we can borrow from the city and pay it back when the funds came in.
- A three spending plan will be provided to City Council. The plan will be looked at every year. Mr. Whitaker said we should plan three years ahead.
- PRPL will provide City Council a plan in three years on how to dissolve/reduce current PMD's that are not funding unique enhancements. Board member Margy Bonner suggested changing the wording on the presentation from "PRPL will provide City Council a plan in three years" to "Parks and Recreation will continue to study; report to City Council no later than". Mr. Whitaker will re-word this sentence and bring it back to the board at the next meeting.

- City Council will vote on November 14th on the intent to create a Park Maintenance District and the final vote on the district will happen December 19th. Public notices will go prior to November 14th.

Board member Margy Bonner moved that we the Park Board, forward to City Council, the request that they move forward on a two million dollar annual park assessment based on the property valuation and that the time schedule move forward such that the process could be complete by December 31, 2011. Board member Rachel Cox seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and motion passed.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin gave the following report:

- The new pool liner for Rose Park is in.
- The Day of Caring is scheduled for this coming weekend. Volunteers from Harvest Church will be re-roofing the Zimmerman Center. We will be supplying the materials.
- The pools will be receiving new chlorine detectors. The ones we have, we no longer can get parts for.
- The city has changed it financial software. The old software has been in use for over twenty years.
- This fall we are planning to update the RecTrac system.
- Our web mail has been fixed. We are able to response to emails off our website.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson printed report was handed out at the meeting.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was handed out at the meeting. In addition to his report, Mr. Jarvis did mention that an eagle scout planted several trees up at the dog park in High Sierra Park.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller report was sent via email.

I. ADJOURNMENT

12:00 pm