

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: April 11, 2012
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Margy Bonner, Rachel Cox, Rick DeVore, Todd Royal

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director

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 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Gary Roller, Billings Mustangs Manager; Jesse Arstein, Riverside Little League and Jim Swain, Billings Mustangs Board member

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Rick DeVore made a motion to approve the March 14, 2012 meeting minutes. Board member Margy Bonner seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

No report

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

No public comment

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Billings Mustangs:

The Mustangs financial report was reviewed by the board.

Margy Bonner asked who paid the utilities. Mustang manager Gary Roller said the Mustangs pay the utilities.

Mr. DeVore asked if there were any possibilities of skyboxes. Mr. Roller said no not at this time.

Mr. Whitaker said the \$30,000 lease money from the Mustangs will no longer be

put into the general fund but into the maintenance fund per the recent Council initiative.

Ms. Bonner asked if MSUB's rent to the Mustangs was raised. Mr. Roller said no, it is all based on usage. He said they probably played more games.

Darwin George asked what happened with the museum at Dehler. Mr. DeVore who is on the committee to build the museum said the chair of the committee would like to step down. He said they have plans to meet in May to find someone else to be chair and start fundraising.

Mr. Devore asked Gary what he anticipated on the life of the playing surface of the field. Mr. Roller said they are doing what they can to extend its life. He said eventually they will be looking at new sod but for now, they are not there yet. Mr. DeVore asked Gary where he thought the money to replace the sod would come from. Mr. Roller said he would have to have a conversation with the department as to where that falls in the maintenance agreement.

Tom Iverson asked Gary about the schedule of events at Dehler. He wanted to know what the Mustangs do on all the maintenance days they have scheduled. Mr. Roller said its cleaning of the stadium, repairing of the field, and rest for the field. Mr. Iverson asked if Gary could "bend over backwards" to give up one of their maintenance days to accommodate a non-baseball related event. Mr. Roller said there are a lot of baseball games at Dehler so it doesn't leave a lot of dates available to hold large events such as a concert, which takes up a minimum of 3 days to do. Mr. Roller suggested for the department to submit a date in the fall around to September when the Mustangs are working on their schedule and they will look at protecting 3-4 days so a concert could be held. Mr. Whitaker said the department would be more than happy to send in dates in August or September.

B. Optimist Park:

Jesse Arstein president for Riverside Little League presented to the board a proposal to take and enclose with fencing, a dedicated baseball field for a minor league field and install a back stop and dugout at Optimist Park.

Mark Jarvis gave an overview on the park plans for Optimist Park. He said the plans were done in the middle sixties and this was done before the master plan policy was in place. He showed three various plan drawings. Mr. Jarvis specifically pointed to the area of the park that was currently being proposed at today's board meeting. He said the first drawing shows this area set aside for tennis courts. The second and third drawing shows an open area for various uses. Mr. Jarvis said a master plan needs to be in place before any development is done. Mr. Iverson asked if there was a field already there in the proposed area. Mr.

Jarvis said there was a backstop. Mr. Iverson asked if there were base pads. Mr. Jarvis said it was more of an open field. Mr. Arstein said it is an open field but they have an infield that is grassed, infield diameters were cut out of the sod, and they had base pads. Mr. DeVore said 15 years ago it had a cut area for a small field and a back stop. Mr. Iverson asked when the base pads were put in. Mr. Jarvis said last year.

Mr. Whitaker asked the board if they should approve a master plan for this park

before they approve Mr. Arsteins proposal. He also noted that Mark could not come up with a Council approved master plan for this park so a master plan would need to be created. Mr. Iverson asked if there was a field there or not. Mr. Whitaker explained that what happened was, a backstop was there, Little League went ahead and started to improve and build it, and we told them to stop until they brought what they were doing to the board for a recommendation. Mr. Whitaker said they have already started construction. Mr. Iverson asked if they started construction without the permission of the parks department. Mr. Whitaker said yes. Darwin George asked Jesse if they were playing games on the field before. Mr. Arstein said yes.

Ms. Bonner said the board and the department need to be consistent when it comes to master plans and making changes to the parks. Mr. George asked how much it would cost to do a master plan and how long it would take. Mr. Whitaker said cost would be around \$15-20,000 and it would take 3-6 months to complete.

Mr. Fedin said fencing in this location of the park for a ballfield, which would only get used 90 days out of the year, would preclude it from other uses such as for a soccer field. Mr. Jarvis said once they install fencing it will dedicate that area specifically for a ballfield.

A question was asked if Riverside Little League should pay for the creation of a master plan since they were presenting this proposal to change an area of the park. Several board members said no since there were no official council approved master plan.

Mr. DeVore suggested allowing Riverside Little League to proceed with their proposal and then at a later date come up with a master plan.

Mr. George feels that putting up a fence needs to be a public decision.

Mr. Jarvis said this park is not solely a sports field park similar to Amend or Clevenger but more of a regional park. He feels there needs to be public comment on the future plans of this park.

Mr. Whitaker asked Jesse if it would be possible to build a field and have the nice backstop, infield and everything without a fence. Mr. Arstein said yes but he did have concerns of people walking onto the field and getting hit by a ball. Several board members expressed that a master plan be put in place before fencing is installed. The board asked Jesse if he was ok with all of the improvements except for the fencing. Mr. Arstein said that would be a start.

Mr. Iverson asked for a motion be made on Little Leagues proposal. ***Board member Darwin George made a motion to allow Riverside Little League to improve what's already at Optimist; backstop, benches and dugouts (above ground). Board member Todd Royal seconded.*** There was further discussion on whether to allow a snow fence. The board agreed no fence. ***All were in favor of motion, motion passed.***

Mr. Arstein asked how to move ahead with a master plan. Mr. Whitaker said

funding. It was suggested to speak with the Optimist club to see if they would be willing to donate funding for the master plan. Board members disagreed and suggested going to City Council first for the funding.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mr. Whitaker said Council will approved the assessment on or before June 11. He said he still does not know how much the assessment will be for.

B. Board Sub Committee Update:

- Sale of Parkland committee: Ms. Bonner reported the committee is looking at selling a parcel of parkland in the Shiloh Point Subdivision. The parcel is the small entry area into Shiloh Point. Right now, Tender Nest is having an appraisal/market analyses done. Once they give an offer on what they are willing to pay, the committee will decide if it is fair and proceed forward. Ms. Bonner said the other parcel they are looking at is Wilson Park, which is the old Field of Dreams tree farm. Field of Dreams currently has a lease with the city to use it for their tree farm. The company is going through bankruptcy. The cities legal department in trying to get permission from the bankruptcy court to terminate the lease so it is available for sale.
- PMD committee: Mr. DeVore said City Administrator Tina Volek has asked council to select one representative from each of the five wards to sit on the committee. He said they are just waiting for those appointments to be made before having a meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- Exxon Mobil Spill: Jon Thompson was not at the meeting to give a report. A report will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Mr. George asked for a report on the Mountain Pine Beetle. Mr. Whitaker said that the department is continuing to spray for the Mountain Pine Beetle. Mr. Stadtmiller said this is something that is ongoing.
- Ms. Bonner asked for the board and staff to revisit the Swords Park trail project and master plan with Bruce Larsen at an upcoming board meeting.

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin printed report and a copy of the summer 2012 brochure was handed out at the meeting.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

No report

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was included in the board packet. Mr. Jarvis asked Todd and Rachel to give an update on the dog park committee. Todd said they are planning the third annual “Dash for Dog Parks Fun Run” August 11. He said they are also planning another fundraising event “Par Fore Paws” golf

tournament out at Eagle Rock golf course on September 15.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet. No additional information was given.

I. ADJOURNMENT

12:55 pm