

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE June 13, 2012
AND LOCATION: Community Center

ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Rachel Cox, Rick Devore, Todd Royal,
Catherine Grott, Mark Wahl, Darwin George
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
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 11:30 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Jim Ronquillo, City Council

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the May 9, 2012 minutes. Board member Rick Devore moved that they be approved. Board member Darwin George seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mike said the Swords Park trail project has been recognized by the state and congress as an outstanding trail. We have received an award from both state and congress. He said the South Park gazebo project is going out to bid this coming Friday. We hope to start construction on the gazebo August 1st and have it finished by the end of September.

He said Yellowstone Family Park project should be completed by July 1.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

Council member Jim Ronquillo asked staff about the netting at the South tennis courts. Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin said the Billings Tennis Association is currently providing lessons for Friendship House and that was the reason for putting up the netting. The netting will come back down once the lessons are over since the courts are not in good condition.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FY13 Parks & Recreation Proposed Budget:

Mike gave a PowerPoint presentation on the PRPL proposed FY13 budget.

Highlights:

- The general fund budget has decreased 1% from last year.
- There are fewer supplemental budget requests (SBR's) this year compared to previous years. Approved SBR's are this year: wage adjustments for seasonal positions, upgrades to department website and graffiti removal products.
- Minimum wage has gone up over the years including this year.
- There is a 7.4% increase in the PMD's assessments due to Yellowstone Family Park and Howard Heights Park being added this year.
- 73% of the city-wide park district will go to deferred maintenance and 27% will go towards ongoing maintenance.
- Top 4 council approved projects for this coming fiscal year in deferred maintenance: playground fall protection, replace Rose Park waterslide, rebuild/replace 9 restrooms and emergency maintenance. Top 4 council approved projects for this coming fiscal year in ongoing maintenance are: improve park maintenance, weed management, replacement of 75 picnic tables, keep restrooms open 3 months longer and trail maintenance. (The last two are combined for fourth place.)
- Money for the department will come from these following areas: 25% city wide district, 43% general fund, 15% from fees and charges (shelter rentals, alcohol permits, soundstage rentals) (the amount from fees and charges goes back into the general fund where it is spent back out), 11% from PMD's and 6% miscellaneous funds (donations, PAR3 revenue, concert sales, Mustangs rental, trash for trees, etc.).
- Where the money goes: 39% operations and maintenance (general fund), 25% deferred and ongoing maintenance, 5% administration, 11% PMD's, 5% Cemetery and 14% Recreation.

B. Board Sub Committee Update:

- Sale of Parkland committee: Rachel Cox reported the committee has gone through and prioritized the parks they would like to get rid of. She said there are about 2-3 parks that they are going to sell right away. Park planner Mark Jarvis said at the upcoming meeting the committee plans to take the 38 park properties they are considering to sell and run them through the matrix to determine which ones they can actually sell.
Dollars received from park sales will go before Council to see where they should go. Revenue from park sales will not go into the general fund. Staff would like to keep the money in the neighborhood the parks were sold in. Currently, most land is looking to be unsellable. Mark said the Legal department is currently updating the procedure on the sale of park land.
- PMD committee: No report

VI. ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- A. Rick asked about the South Park basketball/tennis courts. Mike said any fixes (repaving) to the courts need to be safe. Jon said it was recommended by a group out of Utah who analyzed all our courts that South's be completely torn out and rebuilt from scratch.

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin printed report was handed out at the meeting.

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 included in the board packet. Darwin asked when work will be started at Rush Park. Mike said Council would like to work through the city-wide district before moving ahead with Rush.

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

1:00 pm