

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: September 12, 2012
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Rachel Cox, Rick DeVore, ~~Margy Bonner~~, Mark Wahl, Darwin George, Gary Gray

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Kory Thomson, Recreation Supervisor

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

John Brewer, Billings Chamber President and CEO
Bill Cole, Trail Committee Chair

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the June 13, 2012 minutes. Board member Rachel Cox moved that they be approved. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker said Jeff Wilson from the Billings Hockey Association will be at the November 14 meeting to discuss their vision and lease agreement for Centennial Ice Arena.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Marathon Bike Trail Loop and River Connector:

John Brewer from the Billings Chamber and Bill Cole, Trail committee chair presented to the board the Chambers efforts to plug the marathon bike trail loop and river connector that will run along the river from Coulson (Mystic) Park to Riverfront Park. This section of trail would be a 26.2 mile trail. Discussion is in progress with land owners along this stretch of land to either purchase (a section)

or donate land for the development of this trail.

Mr. Brewer said funding for development and amenities of trails such as Swords Park trail has come from various sources such as the Heart and Soul Run, BikeNet, Ales for Trails, Chambers license plate program. They have plans to kick off a fundraising effort on September 21 for trials.

Mr. Whitaker said included in the park district funding we will be able maintain additional sections of trials that are on parkland.

B. 2013 Dehler Park Schedule:

Mr. Whitaker said he met with Tim Goodridge and discussed a partnership with him and other organizations to sponsor a concert at Dehler next September. He said the department will be turning in blocks of dates to Gary Roller here this month.

C. Open Park Board Positions:

Mr. Whitaker announced Board member Gary Gray will no longer be on the park board. He said Gary has accepted a job in Fairbanks Alaska. Mr. Gray was recognized at the meeting and given a Parks and Recreation Advocate jacket as a thank you for his years of service.

Mr. Whitaker said there is now four park board positions open with Gary leaving. A question was asked if we have received any applications for the board positions. Mr. Whitaker said he is aware that we have received some apps.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mr. Whitaker reported the city passed the amended resolution for the assessment on the City-wide Park District on September 10.

B. Sale of Park Land Sub-Committee:

Board member Margy Bonner reported the Sale of Park Land Sub-Committee is moving forward on the sale of Wilson Park, which is formerly Field of Dreams property. She said they are also looking at Lampman Park which is a 6 acre park located on Monad. She said there are plans to hold a public interest meeting with area residents to see if they want to do a SID and develop the park or put it up for sale.

Ms. Bonner made a motion for the board and department to move forward on the sale of Wilson Park and make the recommendation to the City Council to enact the appropriate resolution to proceed with the sale. Board member Rachel Cox seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Bonner made a motion for a date to be set for the meeting with the neighborhood members of Lampman Park so discussions can begin on the possible sale or development of that park. Board member Gary Gray seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.

C. Park Maintenance Districts Sub-Committee:

Mr. Whitaker reported that a committee is still being put together. He said we are waiting on direction from City Administrator Tina Volek.

D. Public Information Sub-Committee:

Mr. Whitaker said we have gone forward on getting information out regarding the City-Wide Park District and our current projects. He said we have posted them on our website. He said when Board member and Public Information Sub-committee chair Cathy Grott gets back in town he will be setting up a meeting with her to get her thoughts on how we move forward on getting information out to the community.

VI. ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

None

VII. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Supervisor Kory Thomson:

Recreation's Division report was sent out to the board. Recreation Supervisor Kory Thomson gave additional information:

- The recreation division is getting ready to start their fall programs, adult soccer, adult volleyball and girls 4th, 5th, and 6th grade basketball.
- The United Ways Day of Caring is Thursday, September 13. Day of Caring volunteers will be painting Pioneer and Hawthorne Park wading pools and Rose Park kitty pool.
- We are still in the process of winterizing the pools. Using up some of the leftover pool chemicals.
- In mid-October, there are plans to have repairs done to the floor at the North Park Center. The floor had some water damage done to it. We are not sure what caused the water damage. It should take a couple of weeks to do the repairs and refinish.
- We have selected Interstate Engineering to do the design concepts for the Rose Park waterslide. Mr. Whitaker said he would like the board and staff to approve two concepts to have posted on our website for the community to vote for the one they like the best.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson gave an oral report.

- We will start next week to blow out the irrigation systems.
- The spraygrounds are still open only on the weekends. There are plans to shut them down after this weekend.
- We will start shutting down the restrooms in October.
- We just received two new dump trucks.
- Veterans Park irrigation pump is down.
- Several of are park staff along with Mark Jarvis will be going to Missoula in a couple of weeks for playground safety training.
- For the Day of Caring volunteers will be painting the inside of the Veterans Crafthouse, painting the inside of Central park shelter, and lay 600 feet of mulch on the trail at the High Sierra Dog Park.

Ms. Bonner asked who will be maintaining the new trail being built North of Broadwater. Mr. Thompson said it should be maintained by Streets and Traffic Department.

Darwin George asked if the hot weather and dry season has affected the weeds. Mr. Thompson said yes, weeds are out of control. He said they thrive in this kind of weather. He said he expects next spring to be horrible.

Mr. DeVore asked about the ground squirrels at Centennial Park. Mr. Thompson said the chemicals that were used before to get rid of them, we can no longer use. He said they are not sure what we can do.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was included in the board packet.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet.

I. ADJOURNMENT

12:50 pm