

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION: October 10, 2012
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:

Tom Iverson, Rachel Cox, Rick DeVore, Darwin George,
Catherine Grott

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Jeff Ballard, President and Chairman for the Billings American Legion Baseball
Kevin McGovern, CMG Construction

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the September 12, 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

B. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker said we currently have two applications for the current vacancy board positions. He said they will start advertising for all vacancy positions starting November 1. The Mayor will be appointing board members December 17.

C. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

D. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legion Baseball Proposal:

Jeff Ballard, President and Chairman of the Billings American Legion presented a proposal to build an 8,000 square foot metal indoor training facility adjacent to Pirtz Field at Steward Park. Costs to construct the building will be provided by the American Legion. The Legion will operate and manage the facility. The building would be available to rent out during the Legions off season. The

Legion will structure the hours of use for all entities and be in charge of all aspects of operations including the financial one. Mr. Whitaker said the building would be considered city property. An agreement will have to be created giving clear details on who will be responsible for what. Mr. Whitaker also said the master plan will need to be updated to include the building prior to it being constructed.

B. City Wide Park District Projects:

Mr. Whitaker said Council has approved the contract with Interstate Engineering for the design work on Rose Pool water slide. Costs for the design concepts should be around \$30,000. He said Council has also approved a loan to start the project immediately. Funding from the Citywide District will not be available until the first part of December after tax assessments have gone out in November. Mr. Whitaker said we hope to have the new slides installed in time for next year's season.

C. Awards:

Mr. Whitaker said the department has won three awards. The first one is from the Montana Parks and Recreation Association (MRPA) recognition of the Dog Park committee for their in raising over \$70,000 to build a dog park in Billings. The second one is also from the MRPA in recognition of the agencies (staff) assistance to the City Council to create a city wide park district. The third award is from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Gold Leaf Award, for outstanding landscaping beautification act at the landscaping/tree planting celebration at Zoo Montana this last spring.

D. Centennial Hockey Lease Agreement:

Mr. Whitaker said he was contacted about a month ago from the Billings Amateur Hockey Association regarding building a facility on park land. Mr. Whitaker told the association that there was an agreement from 2000 that had expired back in 2010 for a facility to be built at Centennial Park. Mr. Whitaker said he will have the Hockey Association come to the November board meeting to present their proposal and discuss the lease agreement.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sale of Park Land Sub-Committee:

Mr. Jarvis said we are still waiting for the City Attorney to give us the go ahead to proceed with sale of the Wilson Park property. He said once we have the go ahead and sell Wilson Park, it will help us fund the sales costs that we will be accruing with future sales of park property.

B. Park Maintenance Districts:

Mr. Whitaker announced that the Park Maintenance District sub-committee has been dissolved and City Council has taken over, creating their own sub-committee. He said they had their first meeting and they are looking at finding a ways to reduce the costs of PMD's. He said one thing Council is looking at is water costs. Currently, PMD's water costs are around \$300,000. Council is exploring two options. The first option would be to remove water costs from the

PMD's and having those costs absorbed in our water rates. The second option would be to use funding from the approved Citywide Park District to pay for the PMD's water costs. Council requested staff to look at projects we can cut/delay this year to fund those costs.

C. Public Information:

Mr. Whitaker said we are keeping our website and Facebook page updated with current projects.

D. Resolution in Favor of the “River Connector”

A copy of the resolution created by Chairman Iverson was passed out for the board to review and approve. *Board member Darwin George made a motion to have Tom Iverson sign the resolution indorsing the “River Connector”. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed.*

F. ACTION ITEMS

- A request was made to have Chuck Barthuly from the Better Billings Foundation give an update at the next meeting regarding the Oasis water park.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Supervisor Kory Thomson:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin did not have a written division report but did provide a summer financial report for review.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson handed out his report at the meeting.

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

1:25 pm