

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE January 9, 2013
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Darwin George, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl,
Margy Bonner, Catherine Grott, Alan King, Dayton Rush
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Fred Bicha, City Forester

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Newest board members, Marcia Clausing, Alan King and Dayton Rush were introduced.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Margy Bonner made motion to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes. Board member Cathy Grott 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 the department had to remove some playground equipment at both Burlington and Trails End Park.

Mr. Whitaker said Tim Goodridge is looking at bringing a concert here to Dehler sometime in September after the baseball season.

C. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Billings Amateur Hockey League's Arena Project Update:

Mr. Whitaker said the current group with the lease is to get back to the City Administrator with their answer regarding whether or not they give up their rights to the lease.

B. Department Land Request Policy:

Mr. Whitaker and Chairman DeVore made a request for anyone on the board to be on Land Request Policy sub-committee. Board members Mark Wahl, Cathy Grott and Marcia Clausing agreed to participate. Chairman DeVore commented that he will also be on the committee.

Park Superintendent Jon asked Mark Wahl if he could check to see if the school district has any kind of land request policy. Mr. Wahl said he would check.

C. Sale of Parkland:

Park Planner Mark said the committee met in December and toured part of the parkland properties considered for sale. He said they will continue their tour again this week and look at rest of the properties.

Wilson Park (Field of Dreams property) is still being looked at as the first parkland to sale. Currently, the property is on hold for sale until it is confirmed whether or not federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation State Grant Funding (LWCF) was used to purchase the land. If it was, it may not be saleable based on the agreement with the federal government that states that it must be used for outdoor recreational purposes only. Mr. Jarvis said if we are allowed to sell the land, we may have to give the money back to the LWCF. Mr. Whitaker said they are looking into it.

Ms. Bonner said there will be a public meeting with the Lampman Subdivision property owners to discuss whether to develop under an SID or sell all/part of Lampman Park and Lampman Strip. The meeting will be held on January 24th at Big Sky Elementary.

D. Legion Baseball Proposal:

Mr. Whitaker said Legion's proposal for building a private training facility at Stewart Park has been turned down. He explained that they recently discovered the funds to purchase Stewart came from the federal governments Land and Water Conservation State Grant Funding. He said what that means is we cannot allow private groups to build a facility for their own use and purpose on parkland funded by this grant. The program states that grant money must be used for "the acquisition and development of public (not private) outdoor recreation areas and facilities." Mr. Whitaker did say we are allowed to have a management agreement for outdoor use on that land.

E. NEW BUSINESS

A. Urban Forestry Grant:

City Forester Fred Bicha said the department applied for a grant from the State of Montana Urban Forestry back in the fall of 2012. He said we won the grant, which gives us \$12,870 dollars to use in our forestry program. He said the grant will be a 3 part project and will include additional funds from our Forestry division.

The first part will be to upgrade our tree software. Second, plant more trees in our

parks targeting mainly South Park. Final remaining funds will be used to educate the community.

B. Memorial Tree Program:

Forester Fred said he is working on starting a memorial tree program. (A brochure was created with the information and handed out to the board to review.) The program gives people the opportunity to purchase a specific tree from our species list to be planted in one of our city parks. People will also have an opportunity to purchase a plaque that will be placed below the tree, flush to the ground. Cost to purchase a tree will be \$425. All funding from this memorial tree program will be earmarked for tree maintenance, planting, purchase of trees, and replace of any trees that die within the first 10 years.

C. City-wide Park District Projects:

Mr. Whitaker said the first half of the city-wide district funding came in December. Current projects staff are working on with park district funds are the upgrading of the restrooms and the water slides.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- A request was made at the October 2012 meeting to have Chuck Barthuly from the Better Billings Foundation give an update on the Oasis water park.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

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

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson gave a year end written 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

1:10 pm