

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION:** July 10, 2013
Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl, Alan King,
Dayton Rush
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Supervisor
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Rick DeVore called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

None

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Rick DeVore requested a motion on the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the May 8, 2013 minutes. Board member Alan King approved. Board member Marcia Clausing seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed.*
A motion was made to approve the June 12, 2013 minutes. Board member Alan King approved. Board member Marcia Clausing seconded. On a voice vote, motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Discussion on drinking fountains in parks and trails.

B. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker reported that City Council has approved \$30,000 for the Centennial Park Master Plan. Plans are to discuss the master plan at next month's meeting.

Park Planner Mark Jarvis has received funding from BikeNet for the Swords Park restroom. Bids should be going out this month. It will be out for 30 days. Should be the end of September before we can award a bid.

C. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. City-wide Park District Projects:

Mr. Whitaker reported:

- The erecting crew is at Rose Pool. Getting ready to install slides. New fencing for the pool will be installed next week
- Received a thank you from a resident by Lillis Park thanking us for spraying the weeds.
- Restroom project is out to bid. Have received one bid from Fisher Construction so far.
- The new picnic tables are in the parks.

E. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rose Pool Water Slides Grand Opening:

Staff members along with board members Rick DeVore and Catherine Grott are working on the grand opening.

Plans so far:

- Have the grand opening tentatively scheduled on July 25th.
- Start at 11 am and finish around 1:30 pm
- Give away hot dogs, chips and pop to the first 1000 people. The Police Auxiliary will be cooking the hot dogs.
- Have the Mayor and possibly KTVQ anchors go down the slide first. Waiting to hear back from KTVQ to see if they will do a live feed.
- Free wristbands with your paid admission or season pass the first
- Radio host Charlie Fox will be the MC.

Currently, Pepsi is planning on donating pop. Lays will be giving a discount on their chips. Board member Catherine Grott husband has donated \$500 to be used for refreshments at the grand opening.

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. Mr. Whitaker has contacted Mr. Barthuly but he is currently busy.
- A request was made to recognize the Forbes family for their donation of parkland. Staff will be looking into options for that recognition.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Supervisor Kory Thomson gave an oral report.

- Staying on top of staffing. Doing well right now.
- Looking ahead already to August when we start losing staff.
- Enrollment is doing good including our Adventure camps, which have really taken off this year.
- Playhouse, which is an affordable daycare camp, has over 30 kids. Age group for that camp is 5-9 year olds.
- Camps that are full: Archery, Cheerleading, Zoo and Adult Soccer.

- Swim lessons are going up in participants.
- Seeing a benefit with our new market program. Revenue from our programs help pay for the marketing.
- Most of our programs we offer are self-sustaining. This means that the revenue generated by these programs cover all direct costs to have the program. Those costs would include supplies, wages, bus etc.
- Have one bus down. There is a problem with the air conditioning unit. It is in for repair. Hope to have it back either by the end of this week or the first part of next week.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson gave an oral report.

- We are planning to do gopher removal in house.
- Working on weed abatement.
- Two new water fountains have place put up at High Sierra Dog Park.
- Stopped weed spraying and started fertilizing.
- Several huge park events in July include the 4th of July Celebration, Symphony in the Park, and Summerfair.
- Irrigation work at Pioneer, Castlerock and Centennial.
- Forestry along with Prorover Tree Service has been pruning trees throughout the park system.
- Dutch elm disease seems to be alive and well in Billings. Four park trees have already been removed.
- Forestry division is currently working on updating and refining the 1967 Billings Tree Ordinance. They have also been contacting people/businesses that are topping trees along boulevards.
- The memorial tree program is going well. Since the program started two months ago, we have 11 memorial trees.

Jon discussed the lack of drinking fountains in city parks. He said most of the drinking fountains in our parks were put in many years ago and in some of the places the pedestals are still there but the drinking fountain have been removed because the water feed line has failed or broke and was never reinstalled. He said another issue we are having is that Public Works has just completed an audit on all of our water services and the lines running to our water fountains are not up to code. He said we would like to bring back the drinking fountains but it is going to be something we have to do over several years due to costs. It was brought up by the board to look at maybe adding this to the deferred maintenance list for the district one funding.

Jon discussed soft trails in city parks. He explained that there are soft trails throughout the park system. He said many are considered pioneering trails in which people have just created them so they are not mapped out or maintained. Several parks that have them are Coulson, Riverfront, Swords and Phipps. These parks are all considered natural area parks. Jon said the department would like to GPS all these soft trails so we can map and sign them. He said we are looking at

this fall to the GPS processing of those trails.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was emailed out prior to the meeting.

B. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller printed report was emailed out prior to the meeting.

C. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

Chris Waite's report was emailed out prior to meeting. He reviewed his report.

I. ADJOURNMENT

12:40 pm