

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE June 11, 2014
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Dayton Rush, Catherine Grott, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl,
Tom Rupis, Rich Lorenz, Darwin George, Alan King, Rick DeVore
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent
Robin Grinsteiner, Community/Senior Center Director and
Recreation Supervisor
Chris Waite, Volunteer Coordinator

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Robin Grinsteiner, Community/Senior Center Director and Recreation Supervisor

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman DeVore requested a motion on the May 14, 2014 minutes. *Board member Tom Rupis made a motion to approve the May minutes. Board members Cathy Grott and Marcia Clausing seconded. On a voice vote, all members were in favor and the motion passed.*

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Discussion on the initiative on the use of funding from the batting cages revenue.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

None

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Senior Services:

Senior Center Director and Recreation Supervisor Robin Grinsteiner gave a report on the Billings Community and Senior Center and the services it provides to the community.

- Serves senior adults 55+ and over with social, recreational and wellness programs such as Nia, oil painting, line dancing, wood carvers, bingo and Shanghai Rummy to name a few.
- The community center offers services to seniors such as Foot Care Clinic, blood pressure screenings, chair massages, hearing aid cleaning, and tax help.
- The community center does special activities with their seniors such as birthday and holiday lunch celebrations, Friday night dances, and gateway trips.
- Currently, they are raising money for additional parking across the street from the center through various fundraisers. One of their biggest fundraisers is the spring and fall garage sale.
- Seniors can get involved in special interest groups offered at the center. Some of those groups are the recycled card group, writers group, senior single group and investment club.
- Seniors pay an annual membership fee of \$10. This fee includes access to the computer lab, exercise room and some of the programs.
- Located inside the center is “Gramma’s Attic Thrift Store”, which sells knick-knacks, recycled jewelry, recycled cards, craft supplies, kitchenware and collectable glassware. It is open 5 days a week 10am-2pm.
- The center serves daily lunch to seniors.

B. Batting Cages Initiative:

Board member Catherine Grott brought up the discussion the board had with City Council member Ken Crouch at last month’s meeting, to have money set aside from the batting cages funneled back to replace the nets.

Mr. Whitaker said Mr. Crouch was looking into wording from us for an initiative he can bring to the council on a special maintenance fund. He said there are some issues with this special fund that we would have to work through prior to creating it.

C. Department Mission, Vision and Values:

Mr. Whitaker made a request to create a sub-committee to discuss and create Department Mission, Vision and Values statement. Board members Catherine Grott and Dayton Rush stepped forward to be part of the committee. Mr. Whitaker said he would try to get John Brewer for the Chamber to come to the first meeting.

D. Cell Towers in Parks:

Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Thompson discussed cell towers and parkland:

- Putting cell towers up is happening throughout the country.
- A request has been made for another cell tower to be put up on parkland.

- We currently have at least 3 cell towers on parkland. We have them at Swords and Stewart.
- All 3 towers are a revenue source to our department.
- We have lease agreements with the cell towers companies.

Boards concerns and comments:

- Cell towers do not look good.
- Use undeveloped parks for cell towers.
- Create a policy for cell towers.
- Define what parks we do and do not want cell towers located in.
- Look into other cities policies created for cell locations.
- Put together a committee of board and staff to work on a department policy. Board member Tom Rupis said he would be willing to help with the policy making. Staff members would be Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent and Mark Jarvis, Park Planner.

E. City-wide Park District Projects 3-year Plan:

- Make sure we have a mechanism for public input.
- Need to create a method on how we are going to put this list and plan together.
- The current list needs to be updated.
- Need to have a list before the FY16 Budget.
- Board is to give their input on what should be added to the list.
- Put the list in priority.
- Board is to give their top 10 projects. Staff is to it also.
- Look at criteria when evaluating projects.
- Board would like to see added to list ADA accessibility to sports fields and a new playground at Pioneer Park.
- Look into how we might get information out to the public. Suggested doing a survey with a generic list on it and have the public give their top 5 and an additional line to add to the list.

ACTION/ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Discussion on PRPL agreements at the July meeting. Get a complete list of all agreements to the board prior to the meeting. Suggested creating a committee of staff and board to review the agreements.
- A question was asked on how the NDO initiative would affect our department. Mr. Whitaker said right now the only area it could affect is our restrooms. He said he would get back to the board if he heard anything more on this initiative.
- Continue discussion on the priority list of projects for the next 3 year plan for District 1 funding to the agenda.
- A request was made last year by former board member Margy Bonner to recognize the Forbes family for their donation of parkland. Staff said they will look into options for that recognition.

V. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

- Pools opened today.
- We have about 52 lifeguards. We are about 8 short of what we would like to get.
- Had some issues with the pool heaters but we are working on them.
- Water slides are all up and rolling. Contractor came out to certify they are operating safely and correctly.
- Our enrollments so far are up.
- 5 billboards were put up around town.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

- So far this year we have 150 shelter reservations as of today.
- We have remodeled the Veterans, Highland, Gorham, and Optimist. They are available to rent.
- Spraygrounds opened Memorial Day weekend.
- Homeless and transient situation in North and South are being looked at. We are working closely with the Police Department. We have noticed they are starting to set up camps at other parks, Riverfront, under the rims and Coulson.
- Tomorrow is the first day of the Farmers Market at South Park. We are working with Riverstone Health on this. This market is to help low income families eat affordable healthy foods.
- Looking at putting mile markers along our trails.
- Will be going before City Council to report on the potential threat of the emerald ash borer that is moving west. The borer kills everything in sight. We have concerns for our local ash trees. 30% of our trees are ash.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

- A comment was made to sell or get rid of Rush Park since nothing is being done with the park. Mr. Jarvis said we need to look at this park.
- A question was asked if the Centennial Park master plan update was signed off on by the Mayor. Mr. Jarvis no it has not because we have just come into an agreement with the firm. He will be writing the contract in the next few days.
- A question was asked as to who was putting up the money for the Optimist Park master plan. Mr. Whitaker said City Council has approved seed money in hopes that more money will come in to do the plan.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

- Comment: had a great project recently at Coulson Park planting 300 trees.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

No additional comments to the written report.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:15 pm