

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE September 10, 2014
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Dayton Rush, Marcia Clausing, Darwin George,
Marc Wahl, Rich Lorenz
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Bill Cole and John Brewer from the Billings Chamber.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman DeVore asked for approval of the August 13, 2014 minutes. ***Board member Darwin George made a motion to approve. Board chair Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor.***

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- We are looking at having a joint meeting with the Planning Committee at next month's board meeting.
- The High Sierra Disc Golf Tournament to raise money for a course at High Sierra Park is scheduled for September 13th. City Council has already appropriated \$20,000 for the new course. The tournament is to help raise additional funds. We are looking at the cost to be around \$35,000. The course should be ready next year if enough money is raised.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

Due to time, discussion will be at an upcoming meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2015 Park District #1 Projects:

- FY15 original proposed assessment amount is \$2,304,876. Proposed projects totaling that amount are:

- Stewart Park improvement \$1.2 million
- Amend Park irrigation upgrades \$250,000
- Pioneer Park shelter \$200,000
- Park and facility maintenance tracking software \$9,900
- Personal services \$213,292
- Operations and Maintenance \$431,594

- City Council has requested that the original assessed amount be decreased and new options be brought back at the September 22nd Council meeting. Their concerns were regarding the total amount and the Stewart Park improvements costs.

- Staff along with the Park Board Chair and Vice Chair have evaluated the original FY15 projects and based on the project evaluation criteria they have revised the proposal to decrease the original amount to \$1,895,000 and give two options for projects to the board for recommendation.

Proposed Assessment Option A projects:

- Stewart Park irrigation upgrades \$300,000
- Replace fall protection at 5 sites \$100,000
- Yellowstone Kelly's grave \$50,000
- Rock Removal about 6th Ave \$165,000 (has already been done and was paid for from the FY15 funding.)
- Amend Park irrigation upgrades \$250,000
- Park and facility maintenance tracking software \$9,900
- Ongoing maintenance including operations and personal services \$644,886 (combined amount)

Proposed Assessment Option B projects:

- Stewart Park irrigation upgrades \$300,000
- Stewart Park traffic and pedestrian circulation and parking design \$150,000
- Pioneer Park playground replacement \$375,214
- Rock Removal about 6th Ave \$165,000
- Amend Park irrigation upgrades \$250,000
- Park and facility maintenance tracking software \$9,900
- Ongoing maintenance including operations and personal services \$644,886 (combined amount)

Boards Comments regarding the options:

- In option A there was a concern to use money for Yellowstone Kelly's grave site. Wanted to see the money used somewhere else in our park system such as upgrading our irrigation system. There was also a concern with adding a bigger parking lot, lighting and

paved road to the site that it might increase unwanted activity. A comment was made that doing a partnership with the Chamber on this project is valuable and worth doing. It was noted that Park staff on continuing to address regularly the security and vandalism issues at the site/Swords Rimrock Park. It was commented that we should keep Yellowstone Kelly's grave as part of the list because it look terrible.

- A suggestion was made to break down the Stewart Park project over several years. Someone made a comment saying they were against using \$150,000 for the Stewart Park traffic and pedestrian circulation and parking design in Option B. Felt it was not a good use of our money. There was also concern and question that not using the funding, would it affect any safety issues out there with driving. Mr. Whitaker said staff is addressing the safety issues and will continue to address this issue with or without funding from District funding. A suggestion was made to reduce the scale of this project and bring a consultant on board to get it to a stigmatic design this year and then build it another year. A comment was made that we should start looking at Stewart Park issues now and not later. A suggestion was made to do an in house appraisal analysis on Stewart to see the cost estimate for things like parking, requirements for fire, etc. Mark Jarvis said it would have to depend on work load. Mr. Whitaker said Mark is right now working on 3 separate projects.
- A suggestion was made to add from Option B the Pioneer Park Playground equipment but to reduce the scope of the playground by \$75,000 and to add that money to Stewart Park. It was suggested to do this project over a couple of years and to have school age appropriate equipment.
- A comment was made that \$50,000 toward a playground in Pioneer is money much better spent then on Yellowstone Kelly's Grave.

Board Chair Rick DeVore asked the board to make a motion on which option they recommend to Council. Board member Rich Lorenz made a motion to recommend to Council Assessment Option A. Board member Cathy Grott seconded.

Board Chair DeVore asked for further discussion and discussion on the motion. Board member Dayton Rush requested that with Option A something should be started at Stewart Park. Board members Tom Rupis and Darwin George agreed. Mr. Rupis also suggested that before there any upgrades to Yellowstone Kelly's grave as presented by the Billings Chamber that the \$50,000 in Option A be used for securing the site.

Mr. DeVore made a suggestion to amend the motion on the table and reduce in Option A the \$100,000 by \$20-30,000 for playground fall protection, doing only 2-3 parks and adding another line to Option A for \$40-60,000 to the Stewart Park design. Mr. George commented that we should not be cutting from our playground fall protection.

After further discussion Board member Rich Lorenz made another motion to amended his first motion to Option A: do the Pioneer Park school age appropriate playground equipment for \$300,214, take \$75,000 from the original amount for the Pioneer playground equipment and put it toward the Stewart Park initial assessment traffic study. Board member Cathy Grott seconded.

The final recommendations for the FY15 assessment projects from Option A are:

- Keep Stewart Park irrigation upgrades \$300,000
- Added from Option B Pioneer Park age appropriate playground equipment but reducing the amount to \$300,214
- Add Stewart Park traffic and pedestrian circulation and parking primarily design for \$75,000 taking the amount from Option B's Pioneer Playground Equipment
- Keep the replacement of fall protection at 5 sites \$100,000
- Keep Yellowstone Kelly's grave \$50,000
- Keep Rock Removal about 6th Ave \$165,000 (has already been done and was paid for from the FY15 funding.)
- Keep Amend Park irrigation upgrades \$250,000
- Keep Park and facility maintenance tracking software \$9,900
- Keep Ongoing maintenance including operations and personal services totaling \$644,886

After additional discussion, Board Chair DeVore asked for a final count on the amended motion. ***On a hand raised vote, 5 were in favor to 3 were against, the motion passed.***

The board approved recommendation of the revised FY15 assessments will be presented to City Council September 22 for approval. The assessment must be approved for there to be funding available in Park District in FY15.

B. Yellowstone Kelly's Gravesite:

John Brewer and Bill Cole gave a brief presentation on restoring Yellowstone Kelly's grave located at Swords Rimrock Park. Plans are to restore the grave site itself, add shading, landscaping, Amp Theater seating for educational purposes, 3 interpretive pods that give the history of Yellowstone Kelly, the Native American experience and Yellowstone River. Currently, there is discussion with Northwestern Energy about getting some sort of lighting at the sight. Project should cost around \$350,000. They would like to see the first phase of the project started in the next 2 years.

C. Parkland Acquisition through the Subdivision Process:

Due to time, discussion will be at an upcoming meeting.

ACTION/ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Poly Vista-we are looking at programming that facility this fall with a kick-ball and co-ed softball tournament. We are also looking at other opportunities with other user groups. The Park staff have been there doing a lot of repairs.
- Continue discussion on PRPL agreements. Priority agreements are Amend and Stewart. Look more at Par3 and Dehler Park at an upcoming meeting.
- Build accreditation into the strategic plan.
- Check into using Poly Vista ballfield for a dog park.
- 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 to recognize the Forbes family for their donation of parkland.

Staff will be looking into options for that recognition.

VI. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

- Staff is looking at putting our fall programs together.
- Will have a report on this past summer's programs.
- Our pocket schedules are around town.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

- Shelter rentals and park use stats show is around 550. This is an increase of about 10% from last year.
- Staff is starting to look at winterization now in some areas. We will start closing restrooms soon. We do have a schedule close down for our restrooms with the less used ones closing first and more used ones last.
- We are out weed spraying.
- Starting to loose seasonal staff.
- We are still looking at a special piece of equipment to get rid of the ground squirrels.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

No additional information.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

No additional information.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Manager Lee Stadtmiller:

No additional information.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:00 pm