

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE August 12, 2015
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Rick DeVore, Mark Wahl, Lew Morris, Catherine Grott,
Dayton Rush, Marcia Clausing, Mark Wahl, Rich Lorenz
PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Ferguson, Billings Gazette

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Rich Lorenz made a motion to approve the July 8, 2015 minutes. Board member Marcia Clausing seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and motion passed.

Board member Marcia Clausing made a motion to approve the July 22 special board meeting minutes. Board member Rich Lorenz seconded. On a voice vote, all were in favor and motion passed.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Lampman Strip was added to the agenda on behalf of Catherine Grott.

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Michael Whitaker

Michael said the Centennial Park master plan will go before City Council at the September 8th work session.

III. PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

A comment was made by board chair Rick DeVore to set up a meeting with user groups to discuss raising funds to begin work at Centennial Park. Michael expressed it was a good idea but would like to wait until City Council has officially approved the plan.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special User Groups:

Board and staff talked about user groups using Amend Park. It was brought up there were some issues with a recent event held at the park between the user group, Amend Park Development Council (APDC) and the department. To help with future events at the park running smoothly it was decided that staff and the APDC needed to sit down and discuss the current agreement between them and us.

B. Lampman Strip:

Catherine Grott said she and one of our City Council members were discussing Lampman Strip and talked about not selling the property. City Council had approved selling Lampman and use the funds from the sale on other park projects. Michael said the subject of not selling the property was brought up at the last board meeting. It was suggested by board member Tom Rupis to not sell the property but open it for usage by user groups. Michael said staff can look into bringing Lampman before council again to see if they would reconsider not selling it. Rick requested further discussion at next month's board meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trails End Playground Project:

Chris Waite said plans are to install the new playground on August 29th. Approximately 200 volunteers are expected to be there to help with the installation.

The new playground equipment will feature slides, seesaw, climbing features, and swings. Colors are red, blue and gray.

B. South Park Playground and Ribbon Cutting:

Michael Whitaker said the South playground should be complete by Friday August 14th. Plans are to have a dedication ceremony on Thursday, August 20.

C. South Park Sprayground:

CTA's Dayton Rush said 95% of the construction documents are complete. Plans are to go out for bid in the next 2-3 weeks. Construction should begin late fall or early spring. Sprayground should be complete and ready to open next spring.

D. Castle Rock and Pioneer Park Tennis Courts:

Michael said both sets of tennis courts are under construction. Weather permitting they should be usable later this fall.

E. High Sierra Disc Golf Course:

Jon Thompson said fencing of the course has begun. He said once the fencing is complete, the baskets can be installed.

Chris Waite said Disc Golf Billings will help with the installation of the baskets. He said there will be a work day on August 26th to clean and stage the site prior to the basket installation later that day.

Funding for the project has come from the City Council contingency plan and fundraising by Disc Golf Billings.

The 18 basket course with 2 parking lots should be complete this fall.

F. Yellowstone Kelly Interpretative Site:

Michael Whitaker said the Chamber of Commerce has begun their fundraising for the project. They currently have raised 38% of their goal. Target goal is to raise \$450,000. Project total is \$500,000 with \$50,000 coming from Park District 1 funding.

VI. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson:

Recreation Superintendent Kory Thomson's report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

B. Park/Urban Forestry Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson's report was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

D. Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Chris Waite:

Volunteer Coordinator Chris Waite's report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder. In addition to his written report, he told the board that the department was awarded grant for \$5,000 to go towards purchasing trees for Highland Park.

E. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller report was given to the board for review. A copy of the report is in the 2015 board binder.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

1:00 pm