

# West End Neighborhood Task Force Minutes

*Date | time* 1/21/2020 7:00 PM | *Location* Faith E Church 3145 Sweet Water Dr.

Chairperson Tiffany Wardell  
Vice Chair Howard Holz  
Secretary Karen Freeman  
Treasurer

## Website

- <https://ci.billings.mt.us/676/West-End-Task-Force>

## Facebook Group

- [West End Task Force](#)

## Email

- [billingswetf@mail.com](mailto:billingswetf@mail.com)

## Agenda Items

### Police Report- Detective Shane Sheldon

Dec stats: 7263 calls for service in the city of Billings, up from Nov. 860 calls in our area. Top 3: suspicious activity 119, disturbances 61, and welfare checks 41.

Traffic info: 39 crashes, 13 hit and run, 15 with injury. 103 traffic stops in our area, 1112 city wide.

43 traffic complaints, 22 abandoned vehicles in our area. Once it has been called and reported,, give it a week or more, then they will tag it, give it another week, then it will be scheduled for towing.

521 arrested city wide, 38 arrests in our area. 6 assaults, 5 burglaries, 1 drug, 3 DUI, 4 car thefts and 3 robberies (1 at Dillards, Winco parking lot, Walmart)

Go to city website for crime mapping: [www.ci.billings.mt.us/1773/Crime-Statistics](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/1773/Crime-Statistics)

### Parks on the West End- Tom Rupsis Chairman of Parks Board

Volunteers are on the Parks Board consisting of 9 citizens to give city park input.

City parks are a tiny part of the budget. 2600 acres of community centers, playgrounds, splash pads, tennis and basketball courts

30 full-time and 300 seasonal employees.

Magazines: Billings Parks and Recreation and 55+ Senior Scoop

West End; Neighborhood Rosebud, Sacajawea, Lillis Millice

Trails next to roads are public works, the others are parks dept.

37 local parks maintenance districts. If you live in a neighborhood with a park, you probably pay for the maintenance of that park with SID.

Parks District 1 is (PD1) covers the entire city. Developed in 2012.

They have been able to replace slides, pool building, playgrounds, bathrooms, resurface tennis courts.

They have a volunteer coordinator and an arborist. These help with the coordination of the many things that need to be taken care of such as graffiti removal.

\$380,000,000 is the city budget which includes the new water treatment plant. Parks get 14%, about \$9 million.  $\frac{1}{2}$  is from the general fund on property taxes.

Costs breakdown is: staff 45%, operations 20%, maintenance 35%.

Billings ranks the lowest of 10 cities in a four state area for parks funding, which is tied to the mil rate cap.

#### **Big projects:**

Centennial Park under development. 6 acres of dog park. Entire park is 30 acres. The city will be just doing the infrastructure. Playgrounds etc will be added as funding comes.

Poly Vista park is set to begin constructed in 2021 in conjunction with Landon's Legacy to provide a fully accessible playground and ballpark. City will need to allocate funds for restrooms, parking lot irrigation etc.

Coulson Park – Big Sky Economic Development is trying to build this “gateway” park. Master plan is nearly complete. Small amphitheater, BMX track, fishing ramp and additional areas to enjoy the river. Trying to get a \$250,000 grant from Exxon to help them get started.

South Billings Aquatic and Recreation Center- urban renewal center district. Use TIF money to finance a large portion of it. Idea to have a pool, ice rink, indoor courts, community space. Planned in a modular format to make for incremental development. Seeking council approval on master plan and funding strategy. Location is to be next to Amend Park.

#### **Opportunities/Challenges**

Private groups and partnering with public to develop existing park land

Land acquisition in West Billings and North East Billings, Inner Belt Loop

There is a vocal pessimistic minority

Public Safety vs Parks for funding

How to get involved?

Talk to city council members, call, write, e-mail.

Attend a parks board meeting

Help with Parks Foundation

Help with Friends of Billings Dog Parks, Landon's Legacy, Little Leagues, Amend Park

Volunteer to clean up (Refresh the Rims) Bright and Beautiful Clean Up April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Donate funds

There is a naming policy and if you donate enough, they would love to put your name on it.

An increase in PD1 on your taxes would allow them to start development of new parks. But city council hasn't approved it yet.

### West End Neighborhood Task Force-Extending Boundaries-Howard Holz

See map

Feb will be a meeting of task force chairman and officers to let them know the change.

How many will it add to our task force? Approximately 7500 people. Karen will get a better estimation soon.

Figuring out how to let them know they are part of the WENTF.

Motion made to extend the boundaries as shown on map and seconded.

Motion amended to include 24<sup>th</sup> up to Rimrock and West till it meets our current task force.

### Update of casinos and project re-code-Tiffany Wardell

Currently 600 feet separation distance from any building that is a church or school or park. Property line to property line.

3 proposed, use separation: from use to use.

Separation building: separation for a horizontal line building to building.

Property separation: is the horizontal line from property to property.

Some will need a special review. There will be 6 zone districts that will allow casinos.

### West End Neighborhood Plan – Tina Volek

Passed out a draft of a letter they would like to send to the planning dept. See attached

Is it ok to send the letter? Vote to send it? Ask to have funding in the city budget for the west end plan update \$150-200,000 to put it in the budget over 2-3 years. Create a review committee to look

at the plan and compare it to the growth occurring. Send a sub-committee to help with the planning committee.

Motion to send the letter to the council and planning dept. seconded, including the county commissioners.

Nomination committee: find members of the task force to run for offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

Top Rupsis

Lynadale Neielsen

**Next Meeting: Tuesday February 18th, 2020**

City calendar: [www.ci.billings.mt.us/calendar.aspx](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/calendar.aspx)

Project Re-Code: [www.project-recode.com](http://www.project-recode.com)

One Big Sky Information: [www.onebigskydistrict.com](http://www.onebigskydistrict.com)