

NORTH PARK TASK FORCE
JUNE MEETING
NORTH PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
5 JUNE, 2024 7:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NORTH PARK:

- **North Park Grand Re-Opening (Nest Fest) Saturday, June 22 noon-6 p.m.**
- **[Shakespeare in the Parks @ North Park](#) July 20-21**
- **3-on-3 basketball tourney Saturday, August 24**
- **All Hallows Renaissance Faire October 5-6**

Presentations:

Scott Myers & Nancy Welch – Yellowstone Valley Citizens Council – Urban Forestry

- Urban trees help with heating/cooling, air quality, stormwater management, etc.
- The citizens council will partner with the city to administer a \$1M grant for social equity and mitigating climate change with urban trees.
 - Activities will include a tree inventory, urban forest mgmt plan, city-wide tree board, update to urban forest regulations, outreach and education, and hiring a project manager.
 - Tree cover is uneven/lesser in low income neighborhoods, grant is only usable in these areas (EBURD, South Side, North Park on city lands)
 - The project is more than just planting trees. Advise city on trees, build green infrastructure, long-term maintenance to lessen \$\$ burden on homeowners (boulevard trees) help citizens to take ownership of green spaces.
 - Propose new or consolidated forestry division within the city
 - Reach the YVCC on their webpage: [Yellowstone Valley Citizens Council](#)

North Park Crime Report – Sergeant Mansur

- April report: most calls for traffic stops, next most for abandoned vehicles, 73 adult arrests, 1 dui, 1 vehicle theft, 1 burglary
- Drug calls down
- Underreporting of crimes
- Community Service officers - respond to non-suspect crimes
- Noise ordinance hard to enforce in neighborhoods
- Secure items in alleys, yards and garages. Don't leave guns in cars!!!
- Billings crime stats website: [CrimeMapping.com - Helping You Build a Safer Community](#)

HD 51 Representative Mike Yakawich gave thanks to citizen-led task forces. He would love to talk about policy questions with constituents.

- Serves on the state commission for public/behavioral health and human services interim committee; also working on long-term elder care.
- He mentioned on **July 13** there will be a **March Against Drugs and Violence on the courthouse lawn 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.** with speakers, free bbq, prizes

- Suicide prevention symposiums upcoming, youth early intervention

Ward 1 Councilman Ed Gulick

- Annual city budgeting process @ City Council meeting Monday, June 10
- Police want to add 3 patrol officers and 1 CSO (Community Service Officer)
- Downtown 2-way street conversion - remaining small one way streets to be changed over. The two way conversion has slowed traffic and brought in new businesses downtown. Study on converting 1st Ave and Montana to two-way was voted down; 5th Ave. corridor trail on hold
- City continues to explore transportation strategies, crime prevention through environmental design, and slowing traffic.
- City has new graffiti removal trailer

North Park Community Recreation Center can be rented from parks dept.: [North Park Recreation Center](#)

Discussion:

Brenda Berns – Planning Clerk – North Park Task Force Liaison

- \$12,000.00 Budget for all task force groups
- How to requisition money from the city - Task forces can submit a form to request special events, block parties, equipment, improvements, etc.
- Opportunities to improve North Park via funding

North Park – Park Progress

- Playground mostly complete, being used; bathrooms TBD
- Dog Park concrete/fence in progress; new trees planted last month by city parks, Americorps and local volunteers.
- Disc golf course and mural on north side of community center expected by June 22
- Courts, bleachers, fence, signage, lighting, refresh of baseball field part of future plans

Traffic Issues

- Traffic Circles, speeding on N. 22nd, speed in general
- Traffic Signs – Yield vs. Stop - concerns were taken to Dakota at city traffic, action pending

MET Transit

- Schedules, time between stops, reduction in Speed
- Discussion with MET Supervisor - Sahill said they are looking at spreading out times for stops to reduce bus speeding

Future Action Items:

Request money for new projector and screen via city requisition form. Projector options from Best Buy: [\\$239](#) option or [\\$199 option](#)