

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2009
Dehler Park Conference Room



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Margy Bonner, Wanda Walker, Rick DeVore,
Rachel Cox, Dave Williams, Catherine Grott

PRPL Staff Members:
Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

None

B. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2008 MINUTES

December 10th meeting minutes were presented for approval. Board member Wanda Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented to the Board. A Board member seconded. On a voice vote, the motion to accept the minutes was unanimously accepted.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions

II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Mr. Whitaker said the department's online program and shelter registration should be ready sometime today.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mike Whitaker said City Administrator Tina Volek has requested of him to make it a priority to look into additional funding sources for this department. He told the board that he would like to move forward on creating a funding source committee as discussed in the December meeting. He requested for at least 1-3 board members and a least 2-3 staff members on the committee. Mr. Whitaker

said the committee would meet as least every two weeks and would continue until it is done. Chairman Tom Iverson added that he would like to include in the committee's discussion the selling of park land and not create a separate committee as discussed in the December meeting. Mr. Whitaker agreed.

Board members Rick DeVore, Tom Iverson and Catherine Grott all offered and were acknowledged to be part of the committee.

B. Billings Park and Recreation Preservation Foundation:

Rachel Cox said the Billings Park and Recreation Preservation Foundation is continuing their effort in adding people to the foundation. She said they have decided to come on board with the Dog Parks and are funding the wetland survey for Riverfront Park.

Mr. Whitaker said they will be putting their information on the Parks and Recreation website in hopes to further educate the public on the foundation and give people an outlet to give tax-deductible donations to city wide projects.

Margy Bonner told the Board that the foundation will also be used as a vehicle for residents around Rimview Park to donate through them for the development of the park.

C. Rush Park:

Mike Whitaker said they had another public meeting on Rush Park and presented two proposals to about 80 residents. The first proposal was to develop the park land and the second was to do a bare minimum development such as irrigation. Mr. Whitaker said they will be sending out a straw poll to the area residents to determine what proposal to choose. He hopes to have something the first part of February.

D. Selling Park Land:

Mike Whitaker said Tina Volek is in the process of forming a committee to come up with a policy to propose to City Council on how to sell city land.

A question was asked who would be on the committee. Mr. Whitaker said as of right now the committee will be just city staff members.

Board member Margy Bonner brought up that the city does have a policy on the sell of city land but it does not give specifics on selling park land. She also gave information on the city of Great Falls, Montana and how they do have specifics regarding the sale of park land. *Both sets of information are included in the Board packet for review.*

Board member Wanda Walker requested Mr. Whitaker look into having the committee consider using some of the undeveloped park land for community gardens. He agreed with her and made a note to look into it.

E. Centennial Park Lease:

Mike Whitaker said he spoke with City Administrator Tina Volek regarding the Centennial Park lease. She expressed to him that she had no problem moving forward on terminating the lease. Mr. Whitaker said he will be speaking with the city attorney and verify on how to proceed with the process.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. New and Reappointed PRC Board Members:

The board welcomed its newest member, Catherine Grott. Ms. Grott is involved with several organizations including the Billings Aquatic Club and Big Sky State Games. It was expressed that she will make a great addition to the Board.

Mike Whitaker announced current members Tom Iverson and Rachel Cox were both re-appointed for a second term by the City Council.

Board member Margy Bonner asked how many open seats were remaining on the board. Mr. Whitaker said there will be three following Wanda Walkers last day on the board in February.

The request for action to appointment and/or re-appoint board chair and vice-chair was given.

Board member Margy Bonner made a motion to nominate Tom Iverson as Board Chair. Board member Rick Devore seconded. Ms. Bonner moved to have the secretary authorize to casting a unanimous ballot. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Board member Margy made a motion to nominate Rachel Cox as Vice Chair. Mr. DeVore seconded. Ms. Bonner moved to have the secretary authorize to casting a unanimous ballot. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Stadium Noontime Walking Program:

Board member Rick DeVore announced a new program being offered at Dehler Park Stadium starting May and running through July. This program will be open to city residents to come to the stadium and walk around the concourse during 11am-1:30pm five days a week at no charge. Mr. DeVore said organizations involved in putting this program together were the Parks & Recreation Department, the Billings Clinic and Big Sky State Games-Karen Stanford Gall. The organizations hope is to encourage people in the city to get healthy by walking in a safe environment. Mr. DeVore said funding to run this program will be provided by the Billings Clinic, Billings Mustang Boosters Club and possibly a couple other businesses. Total cost of the program is around \$1,500.

C. Mustangs and Ballpark Permanent Fund Annual Review:

Information for this was unavailable at the time of the meeting. Mr. Whitaker said they hope to have the annual review report available in the next couple of months.

D. Revisions to Boards and Commissions Ordinances:

Mike Whitaker distributed a revised document of the boards and commissions ordinances from City Council for review. *A copy is included in the board packet.* Mr. Whitaker said the purpose of the revisions was to standardize city boards and commissions. He said due to the revisions it has allowed the departments to advertise at anytime for vacant seats. He said in the past it was only allowed once a year.

E. Additional Discussion:

Board member Rick DeVore brought up for discussion the comment made by a council member regarding the possibility of adding a \$.25 fee on each ticket sold at the Mustang games to go into the stadiums maintenance fund. Mr. Whitaker said the city's attorney Brent Brooks along with the Bond Council will look into the matter.

VI. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division:

No written report was available.

B. Park Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

C. Park Planning Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

D. Cemetery Division:

Update report was included in the board packet.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Dave Williams made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:40 pm. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.