

**MEETING MINUTES**

**RECORDED BY:**

Melonie Trang

**MEETING PURPOSE:**

Monthly PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE:**

October 10, 2007

PRPL Office, Billings Community Center



**ATTENDEES:**

PRC Board Members:

Denis Pitman, Tom Iverson, Richard Deis, Dave Williams, Jim Strecker, Mary Fitzpatrick, Rachel Cox

PRPL Staff Members:

Mike Whitaker, PRPL Director

Mark Jarvis, Park Planner

Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Superintendent

Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent

Gene Blackwell, Parks Superintendent

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**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Denis Pitman called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

**A. INTRODUCTIONS**

Guests in attendance were City Resident Michael Garvey speaking on trees in local city parks, Woody Woodbury, Joy Stevens and Megan McBride representing city residents in support of a local dog park.

**B. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

The PRC Board reviewed the September 12th minutes. *Jim Iverson made a motion to approve the September 12th, 2007 meeting minutes. Mary Fitzpatrick seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.*

**C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Michael Garvey resident of the City of Billings requested discussion on trees in city parks.

**II. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker**

**1. Ballpark Project Update:**

- Demolition is approximately thirty days ahead of schedule
- Concrete work on the seating bowl continues to move forward.

**2. Riverfront Park Master Plan Community Survey (Attachment A in PRC Board Packet):**

- Riverfront Park Master Plan Community Survey has been sent out. (Refer to attachment A)
- Several surveys have been returned. So far no calculated answers have been compiled. A total list of answers to the survey questions should be ready for review at the next PRC Board meeting.

Mike notified the Board on the NorthWestern Energy grant for solar power panels. These panels are to be used at the Billings Community Center for reduced energy costs. They should have about a 25 year life cycle.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **1. Trees:**

Michael Garvey expressed his concern to the PRC Board on the neglect of care and removal to numerous park trees that are diseased and dying. He considers them as a liability issue to the City if they should fall and cause injury. Michael brought up one tree in particular located at Pioneer Park. It is considered as one of the largest oldest cottonwood/poplar trees in Pioneer that has slowly been dying for several years. Currently it has not been removed. He strongly expressed that it should be considered a priority for removal before it topples down and possibly causes injury.

Gene Blackwell commented he will be contacting the Forestry Department to look into the situation and also into other possible dangerous trees located in parks throughout the City as soon as possible.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business was presented.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Dog Park (Attachment B in Board Packet):**

Megan McBride and Joy Stevens spoke on the importance of having a dog park located within the City Of Billings. They encouraged the PRC Board to look into the matter and asked for their support. Joy commented that several individuals have come to them both expressing a desire for a dog park and a willingness to assist in the planning and funding.

Mike Whitaker expressed that the dog park is a need in the City and it is a doable project. He commented he has experience in building dog parks and has found that some of the most important things needed for a dog park other than support and funding is a place that has water, shade and seating.

He express these items will be considered in looking for a location. Suggestions on possible locations were Riverfront Park and undeveloped parks.

Further discussion on the dog park will be given at the next PRC Board meeting.

**B. Disc Golf:**

Questions regarding Disc Golf at Pioneer Park were brought up in the meeting. Gene and Mike commented that they are still looking into the Master Plan of Pioneer Park to either improve the situation and/or look into moving Disc Golf to another park location. Updates will be given at future PRC Board meetings.

**VI. DIVISION UPDATES**

**A. Recreation Division:**

There was no recreation division report in the Board packet. Joe gave a brief verbal overview on the current activities going on within the Recreation division. The following was discussed:

- Joe is continuing to update the new ballpark photos on weekly basis.
- The portable sound stage is continuing to set a record for this year. As of the October 10<sup>th</sup> a total of 50 events have been scheduled for 2007. Joe commented that the Parks & Recreation Department usually shows a slow down this time of year but he has received several more additional requests for rentals.

**B. Park Division:**

The Park Division report was included in the September 12th Board packet for review.

**C. Park Planning Division:**

There was no Park Planning Division report in the Board packet. Mark gave a brief verbal overview on the current activities going on within Park Planning. The following was discussed:

- Information is continually being added on a regular basis to the park inventory list Mark and Ryan McCannas are working on. They plan on doing onsite inventory at many of the local parks, weather permitting.
- Heights rotary club has volunteered time in planting trees and shrubs around the pond at Casterock Park.

**D. Cemetery Division:**

The Cemetery Division report was included in the Board packet. Lee gave additional information to the report. The following was discussed:

- A solid waste water plant based out of Milwaukee that produces organic fertilizer annually for the Cemetery will not be manufacturing any this year. Organic fertilizer is beneficial to the Cemetery; it won't stain granite and concrete like the other fertilizers do.
- The Cemetery Division is looking into possibly doing an inventory of trees within the Cemetery this fall.
- Lee notified the PRC Board that he will not be in attendance at next months meeting but wanted the Board to be aware that the Cemetery will be presenting

documents on possible fee increases for 2008. He will be available to answer any questions before and following his return.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.