

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

**MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION:** May 17, 2010
Community Center

ATTENDEES:

PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Rick DeVore, Catherine Grott, Darwin George,
Rachel Cox, Dave Williams

PRPL Staff Members:
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Joe Fedin, Recreation Superintendent
Lee Stadtmiller, Cemetery Manager



I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Iverson called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Melissa Sonya-Pearson of the Amend Park Development Council, Toni Bjelland and John Schmitz representing Little League.

A. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2010 MINUTES

Chairman Iverson made a request to have the April 21, 2010 minutes approved. Board member Dave Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. Board member Rick DeVore seconded. On a voice vote all present approved and motion passed.

A. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Discussion on Mill Levies was added to the agenda following the Budget presentation.

I. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

- Mr. Whitaker announced the Pioneer Park Master Plan will be going before City Council the second week of June.
- Mr. Whitaker said Public Works is working with the department on storm water management. They are planning on installing irrigation and reseeded of areas where they disturbed at Rimpoint and Howard Heights/Dickie Park during the storm water management project.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Schmitz of the Billings Little League expressed to the Board that the cost for the advertising signage permit is too high. (The current cost is \$100 per field.)

Recreation Superintendent explained that the advertising signage policy was adopted by City Council back in 2003. He said at the time it was developed, Little League had participated in its development. He said originally the price was set at \$500 per field but after discussing further the price with Little League, the price was dropped to the current price. He said funding from the advertising signage helps in the upkeep of the fields. Park Superintendent Jon Thompson explained that the Parks Department provides the labor and parts to manage and run the irrigation, trash pickup, and mow once a week the perimeters of all the fields.

Chairman Iverson asked how many signage permits have been sold. Mr. Fedin said none but signage has been put up anyways.

Toni Bjelland, representative of the Billings Little League suggested to the Board that the fee be included as an option on the initial permit application form.

Board member Dave Williams made a motion to add a line in the application process that will provide a cost for signs at the softball fields. Board member Catherine Grott seconded. All were in favor on a voice vote.

Chairman Iverson said if the Board or Little League wants to take up the fee, they could do it as a separate agenda item at a later meeting.

In addition to the discussion on permit fees, the Board and Little League representatives discussed the replacement of deteriorate bleachers at the fields and application of fertilizer and weed killer.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amend Park Development Council Shelter Project:

Melissa Pearson, President of the Amend Park Development Council discussed the funding and development for a shelter at Amend Park.

Ms. Pearson said the project was approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. She said the department is helping with the design. Ms. Pearson said costs for the pavilion are \$7,500. She said they are currently waiting on the building permit and working on raising the funds. She hopes they will be able to start building the shelter in July.

Board member Rick DeVore asked Melissa if there were plans to add anything along the sides of the shelter to block the wind. Ms. Pearson said the council has been discussing this issue.

B. FY11 Budget:

Director Mike Whitaker presented a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed FY11 Budget request that will be presented to City Council on the 25th of May.

The budget presentation shows:

- Recreation expenditures are down
- Revenue Increases are due to fee adjustments and higher assessments. Assessments are slowly rising to cover rising costs. They will increase 10-

15% over several years. City Council must approve those increases. Assessments come from Park Maintenance Districts (PMD). The department has 39 PMD's.

- Majority of operating budget goes to Parks
- If a citywide park maintenance district levy would pass, all funds would support us, it would free up time for park staff, management and accounting would be easier.
- Increase in Parks maintenance budget includes; playground equipment repairs and upgrades, park garbage cans, protection for the Mountain Pine Beetle, and the new full time PMD position that will be funded through PMD assessments.
- We are not getting any more in capital
- Supplemental Budget Request accepted; Playground Risk Management Program, Park Garbage Cans, PMD full-time maintenance position, Pine Bark Beetle Tree Protection, and Aquatic Facilities Compliance/Wading Pool fencing. Supplemental Budget Request declined; upgrade website to new web standards, marketing budget, credit card service charges, picnic tables, ADA bathroom improvements, graffiti removal, and two seasonal Trail Maintenance positions.
- FY10 significant accomplishments; completed a community-wide parks and recreation needs assessment, updated Pioneer Park's master plan, protected the mature trees in our developed parks from the pine bark beetle, and completed a tree inventory in our developed parks.
- The department has over \$9,000,000 in parks, buildings, and infrastructure needs.
- Personnel are being diverted from our general fund parks to maintain PMD parks.
- Resources are being pulled from general fund parks to clean and maintain 26 miles of hard surface trails.
- PMD is basically for your neighborhood parks and general fund is for major park such as Pioneer.
- Maintenance levels are continuing to decrease in the general fund parks such as Pioneer, North, South, Veterans, etc.
- Department needs funding for replacement of the pool liner at Rose pool, the slide flumes at Rose pool, Castle Rock tennis courts needs major repairs, and major upgrades for restrooms.

Board member Rick DeVore made a suggestion to Mr. Whitaker that when he is giving the slide presentation to City Council it should have a comparison showing the thirty-nine PMD's accounting for a certain percentage of the overall parkland and how much time it takes our staff to maintain them. Mr. Whitaker expressed that it was a good idea.

A question was asked as to how many PMD's are currently in the black financially. Mr. Thompson said twelve out of the thirty-nine are in the red rest of are in the black.

Board member Rachel Cox asked on behalf of several people from the public as to why we spend so much on having an outside source do our surveys instead of the department staff. Mr. Whitaker said we as a department do not have the capacity to get it done. Mr. Fedin said another reason is people would not believe us if we did it ourselves.

C. Addition to Agenda/Mill Levy:

Mr. DeVore suggested the Board and Staff start looking into the Mill Levy process. Staff and Board agreed. Mr. Whitaker said the levy process will be looked at following the budget process in July.

I. DIVISION UPDATES

A. Recreation Division-Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin:

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin gave the following oral report:

- Starting to get the pools up and running for the season.
- Currently, we are ahead in registrations then last year. Web registrations are going well.
- We had to do some repair work at our batting cages.
- We are in our busiest time of the year.
- Finals are scheduled for Hit, Pitch & Run this weekend. Also, scheduled this weekend is the Hershey's meet.

B. Park Division-Park Superintendent Jon Thompson:

Parks Superintendent Jon Thompson gave the following oral report:

- Arbor Day was held last Friday on May 7th at South Park. Volunteers helped in pruning, removal of dead or diseased trees, and fertilizing.
- A leadership group of 80 volunteers painted the bathhouse at South Pool.
- Mountain Pine Beetle spraying is scheduled to begin next week.
- Park staff is still working on turning all the irrigation on.
- Repair work has begun at Dehler Park from the automobile accident.

C. Park Planning Division-Park Planner Mark Jarvis:

Park Planner Mark Jarvis printed report was included in the board packet.

In addition to his printed report, Mr. Jarvis announced that the department is starting the planning stages of Swords Park.

D. Cemetery Division-Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller:

Cemetery Superintendent Lee Stadtmiller printed report was included in the board packet.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:15 pm