

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: PRC Board Meeting

MEETING DATE August 4, 2010
AND LOCATION: Community Center



ATTENDEES: PRC Board Members:
Tom Iverson, Rick DeVore, Catherine Grott, Darwin George,
Rachel Cox, Todd Royal,
PRPL Staff Members:
Jon Thompson, Park Superintendent
Mark Jarvis, Park Planner
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

None

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

I. DIRECTORS REPORT – Mike Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker said City Council rescinded their first vote on the Pioneer Park Master Plan and accepted the master plan as presented with disc golf included at the July 26 council meeting.

Board member Catherine Grott offered a suggestion to have those in the community opposed to disc golf at Pioneer Park, be personally invited to a meeting and give them an opportunity to voice their concerns. Mr. Whitaker said we can do that but suggested waiting until after a meeting with the disc golf people and coming up with a work plan.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment but Chairman Iverson told the board that City Administrator Tina Volek, Mr. Whitaker, Mustang manager Gary Roller, Woody Hahn and himself met to discuss the Billings Mustang agreement with the city. He said Mr. Roller has provided an outline on the Mustangs assets and liabilities. He said they will be providing a budget next spring as per the agreement.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Funding:

Mr. Whitaker opened the floor for general discussion on funding for this department and what the current needs are.

Board member Rick DeVore asked how we were going to move forward on the levy to fund some of the deferred maintenance we have now and how do we create a park maintenance district that's going to fund future maintenance. He said we need to look at the shopping list of how much money we would have to go out with the levy and how we are going to fund the levy. He also said he would like to see in addition to the levy an additional annual maintenance cost that the department can use to hire more people to do maintenance.

Board member Darwin George said the deferred maintenance list should have a dollar amount attached to each of the items listed. He expressed that the staff needs to go out and get bids and numbers for listed items.

Board member Rachel Cox said she would like to see us first get a citywide park maintenance SID (special improvement district) that every tax-paying person pays into.

Recreation Superintendent Joe Fedin said there has been no increase in our operations and maintenance budgets in that last eight years. He said if we had adequate budget funding, we would not be nine million dollars list right now. He said we need an annual source of revenue to increase the day-to-day maintenance.

Mr. Whitaker asked the board to look at the big picture. He wanted the board and staff to look into how we would prioritize the deferred maintenance list needs. Mr. Whitaker said the council is looking at a levy for our department for 1-2 million over and above what we are already receiving. It would be a permanent levy.

Mr. Fedin said we need to come up with a list that is a combination of maintenance, fixing up and doing something new.

It was commented the list needs to be both community goals and staff goals.

It was commented to have the list balance out with both new items and items we need to refurbish.

Mr. Whitaker explained that with the levy, the current funding for the department would remain the same including the Park Maintenance Districts (PMD) funding and the 1-2 million would be an addition to that every year. The money from the levy would not be going to the PMD's but into the general fund parks.

Park Superintendent Jon Thompson said with this levy, the Park Maintenance Districts would remain the same as they are currently operating now.

Board member Catherine Grott suggested the department heads create the priority list with dollar amounts and include a five year plan what we do each year.

Board member Todd Royal suggested preventing closures such as Rose Park Pool, should be one of our first priority on our list the first year.

Ms. Grott said safety and federal compliance should also be at the top of the list.

The board discussed and created a list of five priority standards (listed below) that will be used as a criteria in which the staff and board can add items from the deferred maintenance list, master plans and studies.

1. Safety, health and welfare
2. Preventing closures and removals (Example: Rose Pool)
3. State and federal compliance; ADA (Example: Water quality in the pools)
4. Survey responses from 2009 and public priorities (Example: more bathrooms)
5. Operations maintenance efficiencies (Example: Maxicom automated irrigation system)

Mr. Thompson comment in regards to operations efficiencies was; we need to spend money to be more efficient and save money.

I. ADJOURNMENT

1:05 pm