

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
August 17, 2010

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Robert Jones, Bill Bronson, Mary Jolley, and Fred Burow. Also present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Engineer, Directors of Park and Recreation, Fiscal Services, and Planning and Community Development, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Administrative Secretary.

1. CASCADE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Toni Neslen, District Administrator for the Cascade County Conservation District (CCCD) provided a PowerPoint presentation of the CCCD. She reported the Soil Conservation Service federal agency was created during the administration of former President Franklin Roosevelt, and every county in the United States has at least one Conservation District. Montana legislation passed in 1939, and there are 58 conservation districts in Montana.

Ms. Neslen reported CCCD programs include workshops, education in schools, tree sales, landowner maps, and 310 permits (needed to work in or near a stream on public or private land) for streambed and land preservation. CCCD plans include naturescaping, cost sharing programs, the Whitmore Ravine, and the Envirothon Team. Ms. Neslen reported CCCD has a Rolling Rivers Trailer available for classes. It is an artificial material that shows the erosion processes of lakes and rivers, and why floodplains, setbacks, and riparian zones are important.

Ms. Neslen reported there is a rectangle in the City from 38th Street, to the north side of 10th Avenue South, to Interstate 15, and to the Missouri River that is not within the bounds of CCCD. Schools and property owners within that boundary are not eligible to receive services from CCCD. Ms. Neslen asked for direction from the City Attorney to help determine what process must be followed to add the rectangle area to the CCCD. The cost would be approximately \$1.50 annually for a \$100,000 house. She explained CCCD is eligible for federal funding for programs to address noxious weed problems, naturescaping, tree replacement, water quality and quantity, and 310 permits. Mayor Winters stated City Manager Greg Doyon will contact Ms. Neslen regarding her request.

2. LPGA – USGA – GIRLS GOLF PROGRAM

Golf Pro Connie Cramer-Caouette, Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), and Manager of both Anaconda and Eagle Falls Golf Courses, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Junior Golf in Great Falls.

LPGA International reported there are 202 sites of girl's golf programs in the United States, and Great Falls is ranked seventh in participation. Ms. Cramer-Caouette reported that working with Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Program Specialist Lynette Robbins for the past three years, over \$16,000 in grant funds have been raised from the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the United States Golf Association. In addition to administering the programs, equipment has been used for Community Recreation Center day camps, Lifetime Sports classes at Great Falls and CMR High Schools, and Intro to Golf in gym classes for the past 20 years. Staff also lends clubs at both golf courses to young people at no charge.

Ms. Cramer-Caouette reported that two young ladies who loved golf and were in need were nominated and U.S. Women's Open 2008 Champion Inbee Park sent each woman a beautiful set of golf clubs. This year an ex-Tour player provided a set for a young girl from a family in need, and four other young ladies have been nominated for the Inbee Park donation.

Ms. Cramer-Caouette reported the two Flagship Programs are the Girl's Golf Program and the First Tee Program. Both programs emphasize friendship, independence (to play quickly, safely, and with care for the golf course), and life skills (making eye contact, smiling, and shaking hands).

Ms. Cramer-Caouette also reported hosting the Montana State Junior Championship at Eagle Falls. The State Director talked with the young people about why they want to learn golf, the opportunities available for them to play in the State, and etiquette and behavior.

Ms. Cramer-Caouette showed a news clip from KFBB on the First Tee Program this year. She also provided a slideshow of the Girl's Golf Program and the First Tee Program.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the work session of August 17, 2010, at 6:27 p.m.