

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
February 19, 2013

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Winters presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.


ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Michael J. Winters, Bill Bronson, Fred Burow, Bob Jones, and Bob Kelly.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager; Deputy City Manager; Directors of Fiscal Services, Park and Recreation, and Public Works; Park and Recreation Deputy Director/Recreation Administrator; Fire Chief; Police Captain; and the Deputy City Clerk.

1. PARK AND RECREATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

People's Park and Recreation Foundation Chairman Keith Teske provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Park and Recreation Foundation.

<p style="text-align: center;">Mission Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Foundation was established to raise, distribute and assist in the management of public and private sector funds to provide the "extra margin" for Superior Parks, Exemplary Performance Venues and Thriving Recreational Opportunities for the people of Great Falls.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">People's Park & Recreation Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3), that consists of 7 board members who work in conjunction with representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department to carry out our mission to improve our city parks. All funding comes from private and business donations.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">People's Park & Recreation Foundation Projects</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Since being rejuvenated in 2008, the Foundation has raised more than \$172,000 for projects that directly benefit the City of Great Falls.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fireworks Display</p> <div data-bbox="846 1392 1024 1577"></div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In 2008, due to budget constraints, a new source for funding the annual Fireworks display was needed. Bennett Motors stepped in that first year to help, and since then the Foundation has raised over \$45,000 to pay for the annual display.</i></p>

<h3>Gibson Park Lighting</h3>  <p><i>Working with private groups, funding for the Gibson Park Lighting project was secured and the project was completed. In addition, we continue to raise funds to pay for maintenance and electricity.</i></p>	<h3>Russell Park & Belview Palisades Park Projects</h3> <p>The Foundation continues to work with Neighborhood Councils and residents to fund various park improvement projects. Two examples would be the playground equipment at Russell and Belview Palisades Park.</p> 
<h3>Jaycee & Skyline Park</h3> <p><i>In 2012, PP&RF worked in conjunction with Leadership Great Falls and Park Development Groups to help install Playground Equipment as well as benches, tables and trees at Jaycee and Skyline Parks.</i></p> 	<h3>Active Projects</h3> <p><i>In addition to our ongoing Fireworks efforts, the Foundation is presently seeking funds to assist with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>West Bank Park improvements</i> • <i>Natorium Capital Fund</i> • <i>Tree replacement project</i> • <i>Swimming Lesson scholarships</i>
<h3>The Future</h3> <p><i>To increase awareness in the community the foundation has a couple of new projects underway.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Website, designed to increase awareness and show the status of current projects and needs.</i> ➤ <i>PP&RF Facebook page to foster improved communication and awareness within our community.</i> ➤ <i>Media campaign to solicit funds and raise awareness.</i> 	

2. UNDERDEVELOPED PARK LAND

Park and Recreation Director Marty Basta provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Great Falls park system. He noted that many parks were acquired as an obligation by a developer to provide park land as part of the development.



Great Falls Park System

- 57 developed and 9 undeveloped parks
- 555 acres of developed park land
- 300 acres of undeveloped park land
- 300 acres of open space



Underdeveloped Park Land

- Undeveloped Open Space
 - No irrigation, natural grasses and few or no park amenities
- Developed Open Space
 - Irrigated turf, walking paths, sidewalks, streets and in some cases off street parking and few park amenities.



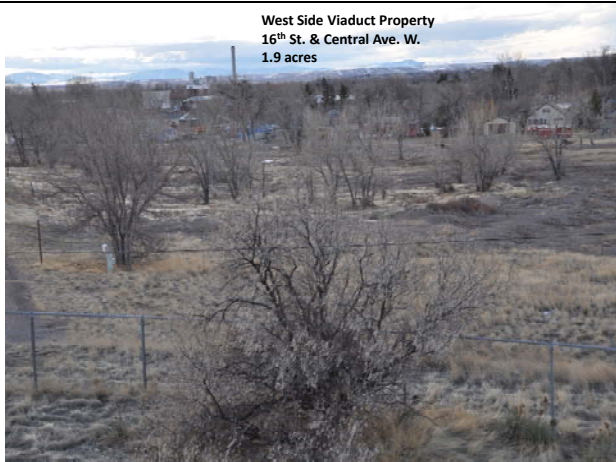
Undeveloped Open Space



Skyline Heights Property
10th St. & 33rd Ave. N.E.
3.4 acres



Skyline Addition Property
3rd St. & 33rd Ave. N.E.
2.9 acres



West Side Viaduct Property
16th St. & Central Ave. W.
1.9 acres

Clara Property
43rd St. & 10th Ave. S.
8.2 acres



Charles Russell Property
33rd St. & 15th Ave. S.
5 acres

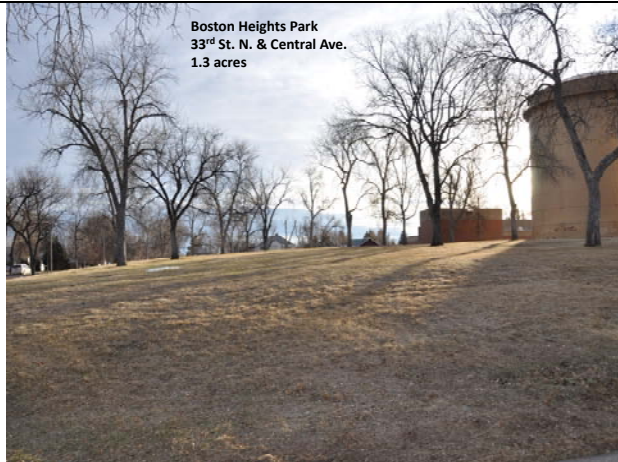


West Hill Property
SW end of 1st West Hill Dr.
8 acres



Developed Open Space

Boston Heights Park
33rd St. N. & Central Ave.
1.3 acres



Roosevelt Park
24th St. & 33rd 2 Ave. N.
2.6 acres





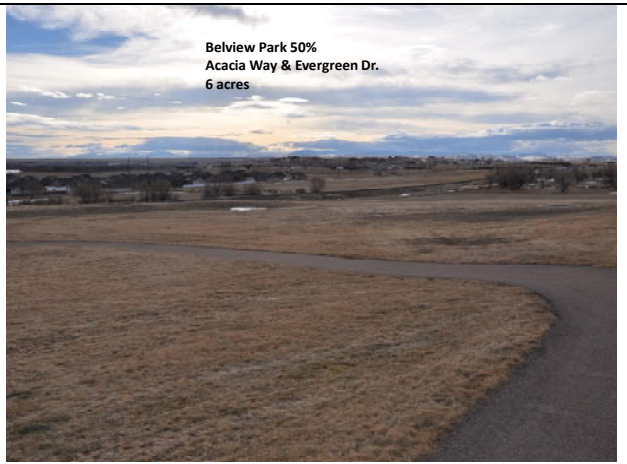
Fox Hollow Park
Fox Dr. & Coyote Lane
5.5 acres



Montana Park 50%
Fox Farm Rd. & 18th Ave. S.W.
2.9 acres



Kranz Park
17th St. & 3rd Ave. S.
2.6 acres



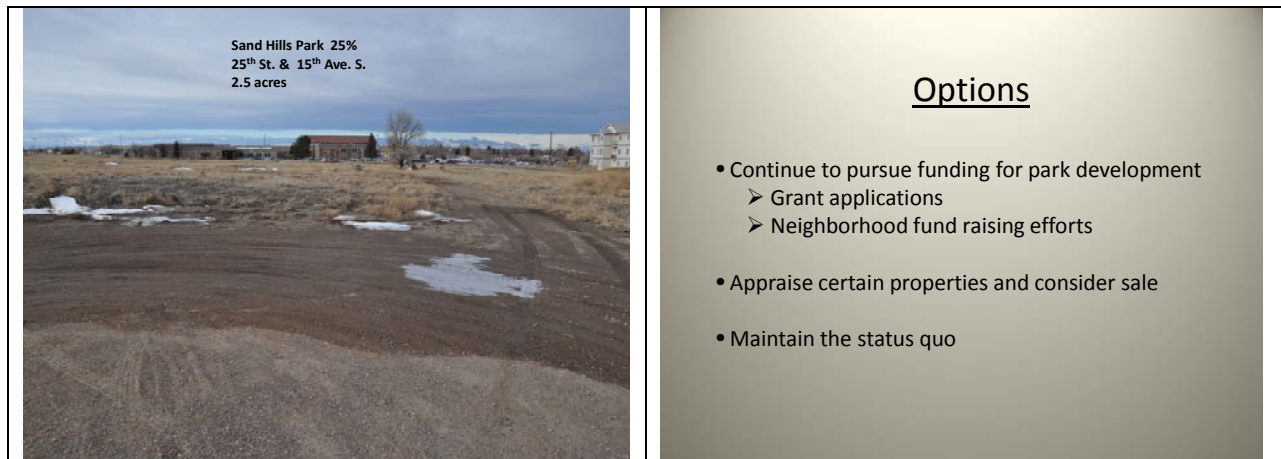
Belview Park 50%
Acacia Way & Evergreen Dr.
6 acres



Valleyview Park, 50%
12th St. & 10th Ave. N.W.
4.9 acres



Riverview Park
2nd St. & 18th Ave. N.W.
4.5 acres



Mr. Basta reported the Skyline Addition property was appraised at \$60,000 per acre. A sale has not been pursued because of the slump in the market. Mr. Basta stated that proceeds of a sale of park land must go into the Park Trust Fund.

The West Side Viaduct property borders Interstate 15 on one side and the rail yard on the other side. The property has been leased by a neighbor who is responsible for controlling the weeds. Mr. Basta reported the Park and Recreation Advisory Board recommended the lease be renewed and that the property not be sold because glass and concrete was used as fill in the area. The current lease is \$150 per year.

Mr. Basta reported the Park Master Plan recommended selling the Clara property, except the area where the water tower is located.

Mr. Basta reported the West Hill property has turned into a parking lot for recreational vehicles and debris.

Mr. Basta believes there is a real value in having open space within a community.

Mr. Basta requested direction for the West Side Viaduct property.

Mayor Winters discussed selling properties that have no potential.

Commissioner Bronson believes neighbors should be contacted to learn of park usage before considering other uses for the property.

Commissioner Kelly questioned if there is a viable market for the West Side Viaduct property and the West Hill property.

Mr. Basta responded that he does not believe there would be much of a market.

Commissioner Burow believes property should be sold when the market is up, and open spaces provide places to play that developed parks do not.

Commissioner Jones would like to pursue the possible sale of the Clara property and Boston Heights Park, and either enforcement of encroachments or the possible sale of the West Hill property.

Mayor Winters discussed the lack of a restaurant at Gibson Park.

In addition to the recommendations made by Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Bronson believes the possible sale of the Skyline Addition property should also be pursued. He also recommended renewing the lease for the West Side Viaduct property.

Commissioner Bronson noted that West Bank Park should be developed to make the area a more palatable place.

Mr. Basta responded the West Bank Park Master Plan is waiting funding.

Mayor Winters agreed with the recommendation for the possible sale of the Skyline Addition property and discussed incorporating Skyline Park with a baseball diamond and fishing access pond.

Commissioner Burow recommended using an auction service to sell properties.

Mr. Basta also suggested enlisting the service of a realtor to sell property.

Commissioner Bronson noted that any sale of park land property requires a super majority (4/5) vote by the City Commission.

The consensus of the Commission was to renew the lease for the West Side Viaduct property, obtain a cost estimate for top soil for the property, and also an appraisal. Also, Mr. Basta will pursue the other recommendations.

Commissioner Bronson suggested zoning the West Hill property industrial to increase the value.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Winters adjourned the informal work session of February 19, 2013, at 6:21 p.m.