

**Park and Recreation Board
Monday, February 13, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: William Ramsey, Michael MacDonald, Karen Harant, Patrick Carroll, Richard Kavulla, Charlie Bruckner

Absent: Russell Motschenbacher

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Patty Rearden, Giles Salyer, Cindy Stein, Todd Seymanski, Rebecca Richards

Future absence: Karen Harant will not be available for the March, April and May board meetings.

Election of Officers

Nominations for Chairman. **Board motioned to appoint as Charlie Bruckner as Chairman. Motion seconded and carried.**

Nominations for Vice-Chairman. **Board motioned to appoint Russell Motschenbacher as Vice-Chairman. Motion seconded and carried.**

Board motioned to approve minutes from January meeting as written. Motion seconded and carried.

Director's Report

Dedication ceremony for the Gibson Park lighting project is scheduled for Thursday at 5:00pm at Park and Ponder. All those involved will be recognized and all donors' will be listed on a plaque that will be placed in Gibson Park.

Marty attended a retreat with Department Director's and the City Commission. Marty discussed Park and Recreation priorities to give them a better appreciation of some of our frustrations and needs within our department:

- Need for capital funds and maintenance of facilities
 - Park & Ponder building
 - Natatorium maintenance
 - Irrigation systems in parks
 - Wall around Gibson pond

Old Business

Skyline park improvements update

Leadership Great Falls has raised almost \$20,000 (including park trust grant) towards playground equipment. Their next fundraiser "Party for the Parks" is scheduled at the Hideout Bar on April 14th from 6:00-midnight. There will be auction items, food and music. Public is invited.

We are waiting to hear from the school district on including their parcel of land located next to skyline park and if they are interested in including that parcel with the parkland that is being considered for sale. They are aware that we are not interest in trading or selling Kranz Park.

Get Fit Great Falls Update

Get fit is a coalition made of up community members formed for the purpose to make Great Falls a healthier community through activities and cross sharing. Committee is working on policy changes for physical activity and healthy nutrition. Park and Recreation recommended to the City Commission a Memorandum of Understanding to work together for a healthier community; the City Commission declined the MOU and instead did a proclamation to Get Fit.

A "Get Fit" event was held in January "Winter Trails Days" at Silvercrest with over 300 participants. The next scheduled event is June 2nd "Summer Trails Days" to be held in Gibson Park with hikes scheduled. Focus is to get people outdoors. Newest accomplishment for the group is that they received an "achieve" grant which is to help eliminate chronic disease and get people healthy. The grant (\$40,000) will be used for training and to achieve two goals:

- Complete streets policy (in new developments) through the City, and
- Develop joint use agreements to get access to facilities for fitness such as school district

New Business

Fly Fishing - Westbank Park

Mark Ozog with Missouri River Fly Fishers is proposing a Fly Fishing Casting Park for Westbank Park. A casting park is similar to a golf course without holes, instead it would be concrete slabs with targets. Course is meant to build fly fishing skills and improve your skills out of the water. There is a lot of interest in fly fishing and North Middle School does have a Fly Fishing Club. They would start with 6 holes to begin with and increase to a total of 18 holes. One hole would have a hoop, the rest will have circular patterns on the ground in concrete that can be flush with the ground. Area suggested would be between the railroad tracks and the road, away from the pedestrian trail. Course would be built to fit the space available, it would be able to run parallel with the current trail without any problems. The fly fishing group would cover all the expenses to build the course. Competitions could be a possibility if we have a quality casting park.

Board motioned to approve the concept of a Fly Fishing Casting Park in Westbank Park. Motion seconded and carried.

Multi Sports Complex

New Age Complex terminated their agreement to run multi sports softball programs last October. Staff has developed a budget that does not include any general fund subsidy and has presented to the City Manager. Park and Recreation will be proceeding with the softball program for this season.

- Fees will increase \$85 (\$450 registration fee and \$250 player fee); fee has not increased in 12 years
- Budget is based on 90 team projections
- Staff will cut hours where they can
- Agreement with school district to pay for their programs in the spring - \$700/team with 4 teams total \$2800. We will only facilitate labor when they have games not during practices
- There are no capital funds for any improvements
- Tournaments that use to be held on week-ends no longer exist
- League play with 90 teams does not allow us to use just 4 fields
- We will eliminate one night of play

Gibson park NHC #7 BNSF Issues

Neighborhood Council 7 will be meeting tonight to discuss the whistle blowing of the trains as they pass through Gibson park. Trains blow their whistle at Gibson Park and the Skate Park to alert citizens, to eliminate whistle blowing we would have to fence the entire area. MDT and BNSF representative will be attending the meeting to discuss their concern.

Discussion also will cover the the commitment for the Gibson park lighting project. There is \$9,800 in Lighting project fund to pay for electricity and maintenance of the lights in Gibson Park. The Triathlon that is held each year will commit funds to this project again this year.

Irrigation Audit Grant

Giles discussed the irrigation systems and new satellite controls with Carl Thuesen & Associates Landscape Architects while at the MRPA conference. Our systems are still in the 19th Century and suggested we apply for an Audit Grant. Giles applied for a \$20,000 grant and received \$5,000. Carl Thuesen and Associates will do a small audit this spring. If we had the ability to turn the water off from a computer we could save on a rainy night \$800/night in irrigation costs.

Senior Olympics update

Senior Olympics is scheduled for June 7-9 and is open for ages 50+. Board received a draft handout of the events and a list of committee members. The committee has a marketing plan that has never been done before and should increase number of participants; in addition, 2012 is a qualifying year with the potential to move on to the national games in Cleveland.

Gibson Park Concessions

Tropicool's portable concessions lease expires this year for Gibson Park. Staff has solicited for portable concessions at Gibson Park with a due date of February 24th. Selection committee consists of members of Park and Recreation and one member of the Park Board; Patrick Carroll volunteered to be on the selection committee which will meet March 2nd.

Montana Madness AAU Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament

Rebecca Richards, Community Recreation Center Supervisor is organizing an AAU Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament for grades 6-8. This is an AAU sanctioned tournament to be held March 24-25 and will utilize all gym facilities in Great Falls. They are anticipating 72 teams (maximum). Rebecca has received a \$5,000 grant from TBID to cover gym usage. Teams have a chance to go on to Division 2 National tournaments if they win.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Staff

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent

- Clean up after winds
- New borders around swing set at Warden Park
- Slide at Madison Park
- Vandalism spray painting – trails Westside by federal building
- Break-ins at shop in Gibson park (twice)
 - Someone got through the window – nothing missing
- Gibson park protective cover for light has been broken by vandals (first cracked a month ago) looks like the light is still good. The cost to replace is \$1,200 per head and we are hoping this is the only one that gets vandalized.
- Painting park signs
- If weather continues we will be cleaning and sweeping parks

Todd Seymanski, City Forestry

- Able to get ahead on Spring work now – doing stump removal
- Trimming next
- Contractor still removing trees in boulevard

Playground Structure and Trees that will be removed from Malmstrom

- Todd has been in contact with them on the trees; he is waiting on inventory from base and getting his clearance paperwork. Our tree spade is 44" which will limit us to size we can take. Will not do anything until April with base restrictions. The trees will be able to get will be planted at Skyline Park.
- Giles has not heard from them on the play structure; it may not be that easy or cost effective to remove and put back up a playstructure.

Summer employment booklet is out and applications being taken now, we are largest employers for summer employment

- Concessions manager for multi sports is needed.

Winter golf will end on Wednesday.

Board

Richard Kavulla did a presentation for his job and used Park and Recreation and the benefits of Park and Recreation as his topic.