

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**MAY 14, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

Members Present: Michael MacDonald, Russ Motschenbacher, Patrick Carroll, Charlie Bruckner

Guests: Bob Warneke, Mark Ozog, Erin Haugen and Paul Considine with Missouri River Flyfishers; and Rachel Kaiser

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

**With no corrections to the minutes, a motion was made to accept as written, motion seconded and carried.**

**Director's Report**

Appraisal for property at Skyline School is in. It was disappointingly low. The appraiser indicated it was because there is not as much demand for residential development right now. Marty's recommendation is that we hold off on the sale until the market improves. The appraisal was for \$18,000/acre, four acres, for a total of \$72,000.

Giles and Marty met with the Rotary Club; working with them on a potential \$100,000 grant for a natural playground in West Bank Park. The project would draw a lot of attention to the park and help us gain some momentum.

We reopened the Dog Park today. The turf is in much better shape.

Gibson Park Concessions: Tropicool's mobile food service license expired in 2009. Michael Mader is working on the license, but does not have it in yet. The contract will not go on the contracts list for City Commission approval until the paperwork is submitted.

FlowRider Pad: Pacific Elastomers did the original work on the Flow Rider pad and it failed. We have a warranty with them and according to the City Attorney, we have a bond on property to insure the project. Pacific Elastomers has been non-responsive. We are working with Montana Elastomers on the repairs; Giles researched other local companies, no one else is interested or capable. Montana Elastomers did the repairs for us last summer. Montana Elastomers is able to get the product to make repairs. Cost of the repairs is \$8,985; does not include a new pad; just the new riding surface. Pool opens in a month; needs to be repaired prior to opening.

FAA received an application for a sea plane base on the Missouri River. Marty submitted a letter of protest because of boaters, jet skis, floaters using the river, plus disruption to wildlife on the island and the close proximity to the MLCC Golf Course.

**OLD BUSINESS**

CDBG Grant Awards

CDBG Grants were awarded as presented to City Commission, including \$91,464 for the Natatorium boiler, \$34,499 for a play structure for Pinski Park, and \$7,200 for Community Recreation Center scholarships for after school child care and summer camp programs. The

money won't be available until August. We will begin working on bids for the Natatorium boiler. The new boiler will be much more energy efficient. Would like to complete the project during scheduled closure in August.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **The Sunflower Project**

Mike Dalton briefed the Board on the Sunflower Project. Mike has run a 501(c)3 called Sunburst Unlimited since 1998 and is working on a variety of projects including Gardens from Garbage. He is working on the Sunflower Project with 14 other agencies who want to be part of the movement. They have developed a Master Plan that is comprised of three elements to intervene with the growing number of children and families who do not have enough food.

1. Acquisition of a building to include
  - a. Developing a housing unit for homeless vets
  - b. Developing a licensed community kitchen to provide fresh food and processed food for primarily the food bank
  - c. Develop a food processing plant for other foods. They will train unemployed vets and single moms to work in the kitchen and food processing plant.

AmeriCorps Vista program is partnering with Mr. Dalton's organization to develop a network of gardens throughout the City. They will train and employ unemployed single moms and veterans. They will also train them how to cook. At the end of harvest they will take some of the food produced home (as part of their pay), and will know how to cook/prepare it as well. Each garden will produce 5,000-6,000 pounds of food, primarily for the food bank, schools, etc. Will also be planting orchards around the City.

Mr. Dalton would like to come back to make a formal presentation to the Board to acquire use of parkland for gardens.

### **Skate Park Mural**

Waddell and Reed donated \$500 for artwork at the Skate Park over a year ago. To get started, Rachel proposed doing a mural on the outside wall of the Skate Park facing River Drive. The mural would include a stencil of Waddell and Reed's logo. Rachel is proposing doing a mural consisting of a Phoenix flying with a floating City in the background with bright colors. The proposal is for a 250 square feet mural. Rachel will bring the design to next Board Meeting. There was some discussion on having a mural on the outside wall and also the size of the Waddell and Reed logo being fairly small – perhaps similar to an artist's signature size. Rachel's signature will be included as the artist.

**A motion made to approve the expenditure of the \$500 that was donated pending approval of the design to be presented at the next Board Meeting. Motion seconded, carried. Motion approved.**

### **Playground Equipment Grant**

Keith Cron, on behalf of Leadership Great Falls (LGF), presented a request for additional funding for the Skyline and Jaycee Park play structures. At an earlier meeting, the Board approved a matching grant of \$3,939 from interest earned on the Park Trust. To date, Leadership Great Falls has raised \$52,455.38, minus costs they have \$42,000 to commit to the two play structures. They are receiving proposals back from five companies for two play structures @ \$20,000 each or two play structures @ \$25,000 each for Skyline and Jaycee Parks. There is a

substantial difference in the \$5,000 price point. They would like to award from the \$25,000 per piece proposals; they are \$8,000 short. LGF is requesting Park Trust Funds for the balance. There is a possibility of getting the money from Parks' operating budget. Marty recommends looking at the Park maintenance fund as the first choice. Normally, we only use the interest of the Park Trust to ensure there are funds for future projects. Miracle, Landscape Structures, Game Time, Great Western are national vendors that we have dealt with us. Although Giles is not recommending that LGF pick one of those companies, he indicated he is not sure about installation, follow-up with problems, etc. with other vendors since we have had no experience with them.

### **MusicFest on the River**

The Peoples Park and Recreation Foundation wants to make MusicFest their signature event and to do it annually to raise money for Foundation. Staff is trying to support the effort as much as we can. Jeni Fleming, Dave Walker Band, and Pinky and the Floyd have been booked to perform. They do not have final approval from the credit unions (their major sponsor). They are working on other sponsors as well; need a total of \$15,000.

Dates are June 30 & July 1; Saturday, 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Elks Riverside Park. The event will include music and children's area plus concessions and beer garden. River Drive will not be closed. All activities will be behind trail for a buffer and MDOT approved reducing the speed limit.

### **Missouri River Flyfishers, West Bank Park**

The Missouri River Flyfishers have roughly designed a course for a fly fishing park in West Bank Park. The design includes six holes. They are looking for permission to proceed. It will include 3 x 3' cement pads for stands. They want to begin with six holes to see how it works. If the road is moved in the proposed area, per the West Bank Park Master Plan, they would be happy to move locations to work with the project. Conservation Corp needs to issue a permit. The course will be open to the public, free of charge. The Missouri River Flyfishers will do all maintenance and put the project in. Would like to include signage that describes the holes, and name their club, the City of Great Falls, and Fish Wildlife and Parks for the cooperative effort. Marty will run the project by the City's Risk Manager to see if we need a lease and liability insurance. All board members support the project. They approved the concept of a flyfishing park in West Bank Park at their February 13, 2012 meeting; no further action is required by Board.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Staff**

Giles: Started softball with 93 teams; projected 90 teams. A suggestion was made to charge late registration to get teams registered on time. Crews are out mowing/trimming. Full staff of temporaries by will be on board by Wednesday. Manual watering will begin. Automated systems are going. A new full time employee (Ted Fallon) started today as the parks mechanic/welder. The previous employee has been gone a month. Tennis wind nets are up at CM Russell courts. Painting the gazebo at Russell Park. Working on some neighborhood park projects. Boat docks are in except at Wadsworth Park; the water is still too high, we will have to build a new access path to get to the dock when the water lowers.

Todd: At full staff for the summer. Trimming and watering, fired up the water truck last week. Working on Skyline Park, getting a few trees in. Project is going slower than hoped as it is hard to dig holes and they can't move the trees from the base as fast as they would have liked (base

has their own locators). Approximately a dozen trees have been moved; with approximately 20 to go. There a lot of junipers; they cannot get to a lot of the trees slated to be removed as they are too close to houses. The tree planting project is complete. Now staff is challenged with keeping them watered; it's been very dry.

Patty: Summer programs registration started April 30 and is going very well. First Tee golf camp is full, summer camps are almost full and swimming lessons are going well. We run good quality programs and the excellent registration is a result of those efforts. Ice Breaker went very well, it was beautiful day, and the staff has become very organized and efficient in producing the Race. The registration was the highest we had since 1998.

#### Board

Russell said the new trees help in Skyline Park. Todd indicated that United Materials will be replacing the tree they took out with four trees. Giles added that United Materials will have to sod the disrupted area and return the area to its original condition.

We will be presenting the preliminary budget to City Manager on May 22.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.