

**Park & Recreation Board**  
**Monday, June 11, 2012**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Patrick Carroll, Russell Motschenbacher, Charlie Bruckner, Karen Harant, and William Ramsey, Richard Kavulla

Absent: Mike MacDonald

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Patty Rearden, Todd Seymanski, Cindy Stein

Others Present: Mike Dalton, Gayle Gifford, Elena Cimental and Juan Cimental

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm.

**Patrick motioned to approve the minutes from April and May, 2012. Motion seconded and carried.**

**Director's Report**

- All parks are looking great this year
- Editorial on the RET
- Follow up budget meetings with city manager and other general fund users – over 2 million out of balance.
  - City Manager will present the budget at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Commission work session
  - July 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting will conduct the public hearing on budgets
  - At this time no major cuts in park and recreation – no talk about closing facilities.

**Old Business**

*Final Design for Skate Park Mural*

Rachael Kaiser was unable to attend meeting

*Skyline/Jaycee Park Playground Equipment*

Skyline/Jaycee park playground equipment is ordered with delivery in 4-6 weeks

- Equipment should be installed as soon as it is delivered
- Would like to do something for Leadership Great Falls to thank them for their efforts.
  - Maybe a plaque at each location recognizing them or something like memorial trees
- They also have received several benches and a water fountain donated, plaques will be put on those items.

Board would like to have a ceremony in the park for the structures and recognize all involved, include a plaque for each location. Marty will talk with Leadership Great Falls Group.

Board recommended that the Red Horse Squadron get involved in putting structures together. Will discuss as the time gets closer.

Structure placement will have to go to the neighborhood councils for approval and/or recommendations.

*Gibson Park Concessions*

Mike Mader met with Marty last week; he is unable to get his mobile concessions license from the health department. They are requesting that he use an outside commissary area to do his prep work and storage of food. He is working on partnering with someone that has a store where he will be able to

go in and cook his food. Marty informed him that it has been 2 months now and that we may have to go out for bid due to the time restraints.

#### *MusicFest on the River*

MusicFest on the River event has been cancelled, second year in a row with canceling at the last minute due to funding for the event.

#### *Montana Senior Olympics*

MT. Senior Olympic Recap

Senior Olympics went very well with 261 athletes and 847 events. We ran some very good games and fun social events; Great Falls has been awarded for the next 2 years

Montana Senior Olympics Executive Director and Treasurer have resigned; George Geise has been appointed as Executive Director and Larry Rowton and Gary McManus and Terry Graham have been appointed to the Board.

2013 date change will June 20-22, two weeks later than this year. The cost to our department is staff time and providing some of the facilities for the events. Track and Field are the biggest events, held at GFHS.

#### **New Business**

##### *Skate Board Competition for Cancer Research*

Elena Cimenthal presented her idea to host a Skate Board competition for cancer research "skate for a cause".

- Youth register to skate for \$7
- Food & Beverages will be sold
  - They are working with the Malmstrom Commissary on food prep, providing a cook and also donating all the food.
- All proceeds to go to cancer research. They have been in contact with the American Society of Cancer.
- Prizes will be awarded to age groups
- They will invite local kids that have been diagnosed with cancer to the event.
- Liability insurance – should be covered by Malmstrom
- First Aid Supplies will be available
- EMS on stand by

Marty – the City will required 1.5 million liability policy with the city as endorsement to the insurance.

Marty to provide the specific information required so they can check with the base.

There is another party hosting a skate board event as "safety competition", there is no charge to use the facility and they will be providing helmets; insurance coverage for that event is different.

Everything will be donated and all proceeds will go to the cancer research facility.

Event was originally scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>, with the 21<sup>st</sup> already booked they will hold their event on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-7:00; this will be one week following the skate park safety event.

**Board motioned to recommend approval of the event, as long as all requirements of insurance and health issues are followed. In addition they are recommending the rental fee be waived with the understanding that all proceeds will go to the Cancer Research Center. Motion seconded and approved.**

### **FRESH Food Farms**

Mike Dalton, Executive Director of Sunburst Unlimited, a 501C3 program. Their mission is to acquire use of City Park and private plots of ground to develop a network of vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, called FRESH Food Farms.

- Items that will be grown on these plots will be dedicated to the Great Falls Community Food Bank and its 56 affiliates
- What has been laid out and begun development is a network of local gardens and orchards both situation on private property and making available portions of some of the city parks to put in gardens and orchards
- All harvest would go to the food bank.
- Another aspect is working with the stakeholders, MT job service to recruit train and hire people who are presently homeless vets and unemployed single moms; in the same process they would get a portion of the harvest as payment. County extension office and Head Start will also be involved in training.
- Estimate that the gardens will produce carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and onions; 5-6,000 lbs or produce each season from each plot. It would be a 50' lot (garden by Salvation Army is a model to look at to see what can be done in a city lot);
- We have filed for receipt or dedication of an Ameri-core Vista volunteer thru the anti- poverty Ameri-core. Vista worker will be here in about 5 weeks and will work with us over the next year so. By spring 2013 we can have seeds in ground and saplings for an orchard plot. Vista worker will be paid \$900/mo to cover the rent, food and gas as our commitment.
- Sunburst Unlimited, Inc. group is asking for permission to begin negotiations and/or conversations with Park and Recreation to develop this plan that would utilize city parks and then to develop a MOU to spell out the obligations of both parties involved.

Gayle Gifford with the Great Falls Community Food Bank is working with Sunburst Unlimited to develop this program that will be a great service to their food bank and the 56 affiliates.

- In the last 12 months they have increased dramatically with distribution of over 900,000 lbs of food; up 30,000 lbs in one month and with less than 15% being fresh produced.
- They currently receive fresh foods from backyard gardeners, Hutterite Colonies and River City Harvest, which have a couple of pods dedicated to them.

Marty feels that we need to work with groups who are interested in doing this project (Pea Pods have also requested additional plots); there are some large parks around town that could be utilized for an effort like this. Request will have to be brought to the City's Attorney first.

Marty suggested the Park and Recreation's Community Hall Park with approximately 6 acres and is already fenced could be a good location.

Mike has a few areas to be considered

- primarily south side of downtown
- Across from Park Dale
- Kranz park
- Talked with Pea Pods and the Salvation Army who have gardens next to Park Dale already and they have not had any vandalism in those areas or any of the garden areas.

**Board motioned to recommend Park and Recreation staff work with Sunburst Unlimited, Inc. to research the development of Gardens in City Parks. Motion seconded and carried.**

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Staff

Patty, Deputy Director

- Water Park opened on Friday and then closed on Saturday and Sunday due to weather
- Spray parks opened on Friday
- Golf – tournaments
- Camps – started this week
- VIC hosted Chambers after hours – it was a great event and the public never realized what all was up there.

Todd, City Forester

- Trim, planting of trees
- Start removing ded trees on Wednesday
- The health of trees is up so hoping beetles will be down
- Flowers in at flower garden
- Malstrom tree removal is going quite slow, they are just doing small sections at a time, will get some today and tomorrow and putting them in at Skyline. Soil is very tough in Skyline.

Russ inquired about Skyline and the tree replacement by United Materials. Sodding is done but nothing with trees; areas have been skated temporary for the tree replacement.

**With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.**