

## PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

APRIL 9, 2012

### MINUTES

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

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

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

#### **Director's Report**

April 17<sup>th</sup> the City Commission to review the Block Grant requests, Park and Recreation has submitted requests for the following items:

- Natatorium boiler
- Recreation Center furnace
- Pinski park play structure

Flow Rider repair through A&W coatings has been pulled from the contractors list for approval; need additional paperwork.

Continuity of Operations exercise is scheduled for Wednesday, Marty and Giles to attend. Meeting was to cover each department plan if there is a disaster in Great Falls.

Marty attended the Commission retreat, the discussion overview consisted of:

- Five greatest challenges
- Strengths and weaknesses of department
- 7 broader goals
  - Promote a positive image of our community – emphasis on customer service and to promote that Great Falls has the best forestry, trails and park and recreation programs in the state
  - Commitment to public safety – recreation/parks have direct impact on crime; not to put all resources towards enforcement and work with park and recreation on programs for the youth

Easter Egg Hunt attracted more than 500 participants and spectators. Jim Sargent with KMON and Nick Northern with K99 Mc'd the egg hunt. It was a fun event for everyone. Steel Etc. donated \$2,000 in cash plus \$1,200 in quarters that were put into the eggs. Cascade FFA stuffed the eggs with candy and coins and also assisted at the event.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### *Skyline School Park Sale*

Dr. Crawley with the GF School District, Mayor Winters, Patrick (school district maintenance) and Marty met to discuss selling a portion of Skyline Park with the City's portion and getting it appraised as one parcel. The school district consists of 1 acre and Park and Recreation 3 acres the school is in agreement with combining the 2 parcels as one and having it appraised. The school district will share in the \$1,500 cost of the appraisal.

**Board motioned to approve the expense for the appraisal with \$1,000 to come from the park trust and be reimbursed upon sale of the property and the school district paying \$500. Motion seconded and carried**

##### *Skyline Park Development*

Giles to meet with City Manager and the group for the Development of Skyline Park; the Skyline Park committee is considering applying for a grant to use the storm drainage for irrigation for the park. Water quality, amount of

water needed are of concern, the area is currently fenced with the deepest part 8 feet. Mayor Winter would like to see the area turned into a natural area.

#### *Dog Park Closure Update*

Currently the dog park is closed Monday-Friday and re-opens on week-ends; this will allow the turf to heal. Staff will water the dog park heavily on closed days; the dog park will be fertilized and aerified by an outside company and staff will try to overseed to help it along.

The Dog Foundation committee has asked Marty to propose another dog park in Skyline Park. Other parks recommended for consideration for another dog park are Russell and Clara parks.

#### *Gibson Park Concession Agreement*

Request for concessions at Gibson Park went out with one proposal received by the current concessionaire Tropicool. Their request is to add an ice cream machine inside the current building with seating. Staff has met with the Health Department, contractors, and building official; with the Building Official not recommending use of the building for anything. Giles and Patty reviewed the proposal.

There has been discussion on razing the building, there are no current safety issues with leaving it standing right now and the restrooms will need to be salvaged. The building was constructed as a temporary structure not a permanent structure.

**Board motioned to accept Mr. Mader's proposal for concessions at Gibson Park. With no changes to the current lease proposed by the City. Motion second and carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Irrigation Study Grant*

Park and Recreation received a \$5,000 grant from DNRC to do an irrigation study. Original Grant request was for \$20,000. The \$5,000 grant received will allow us to do a small area; which will give us an idea on water savings with improvements to current irrigation systems. Carl Thuesen will do the water audit. If we were able to turn off all our parks on a rainy night (through a computer system); we could save \$800-\$1,000 per night. With a computer generated irrigation system, it can give us information on irrigation problems, overwatering, and vandalism immediately.

Carl Thuesen will let us know how many acres the \$5,000 will cover and then we will decide on what park we will have audited.

There could be 30-50 days the water can be turned off due to rain.

### **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### *Staff*

Giles, Park Superintendent

- Working with Forestry Division on projects
  - Brick pathway sidewalk to the flower garden area from the roadway (east side of flower garden)
  - Concrete curb removed and added a handicap accessible curb cut
- Removed all overgrown vegetation between 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Street by Holiday gas station. Forestry will plant a tree there.
- Snow fence all down
- Cleaning parks and civic center landscape areas
- Getting ready for ice breaker

Todd, City Forester

- Trimming

- Went to MAFB to look some trees they plan on eliminating; found 24 trees that will be good to transfer (possible 30);
  - Will move to Skyline Park next week.
- Arbor day April 21<sup>st</sup> – working with MAFB and Earth Day;
- Will be helping MAFB on the 27<sup>th</sup> with their Arbor Day project;
- Planting and trimming to continue;
- Forde nursery will be planting trees in the Boulevard District per contract.

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

- Summer Brochure went out in the GF Tribune last week; will be delivered to all grade schools next week for handout;
- Mt. Senior Olympics registration starts next Wednesday
- Ice breaker special registration on Friday at Benefis/at Scheels on Saturday

Marty Basta

- State wide effort to organize trail managers for recreation trails. There is a meeting in Helena on the 20/21 – Doug wicks will not be able to attend, Marty to attend the meetings.

Board questions:

- AAU tournament was cancelled due to lack of registration
- Softball registration continues, it is slow starting
- Bill – interviewed a little girl from Calgary (egg hunt); it was their destination to GF for Easter.
- Get Fit presentations – Patty has done a lot of the boards and neighborhood councils (several members doing presentations). Marty on the committee who is writing the policy. May 23<sup>rd</sup> town meeting with community support and education.

With no further business meeting adjourned at 3:56pm