

**Park & Recreation Board  
Monday, August 13, 2012  
Minutes**

Members Present: Michael MacDonald, Patrick Carroll, Charlie Bruckner, William Ramsey, Russell Motschenbacher, Karen Harant

Absent: Richard Kavulla

**Board motioned to approve the minutes from July Park & Recreation Board meeting. Motion seconded and approved.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Thanks to Mike MacDonald and Charlie Bruckner for volunteering to judge the Pet & Doll;
- Applying for a grant to replace the boat docks at Broadwater Bay through the PPL Riverfund;
- Westbank Park Development. Meeting with the Planning Board on Tuesday to discuss the Great Falls West Bank Urban Renewal Plan including tax increment financing provisions which include the Westbank Park. Discussion to include available funds for projects in Westbank Park:
  - \$15,000 requested to extend RET
  - \$40,000 requested for improvements at Westbank Park;
- Sundial is completed on 15<sup>th</sup> Street & River Drive North;
- Dedication ceremony held for the Weismann bridge trail, Mike Hollern did the landscaping on the West end of Central Avenue.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Inquiry on when the casting park project will begin for Westbank Park. Staff has initiated a Use Permit for the project and is waiting on a response.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Riverside Railyard Trail Improvements*

- Extension and relocation of portions of the trail through Elks' Riverside Park by the skatepark and tunnel will be funded through grants and RTI. This will provide a better connection with downtown. Board received a layout of the new trail connections. (Attached). Plan will improve the current trail and add connections; plan fits in with the Downtown Master Plans goal to provide better access from downtown to the trail system. Project to be completed this fall.
- This could be the last year that grants will be available for recreational trails

*Tribune Parks Column*

- Marty attended the Neighborhood Council 4 meeting to discuss park issues and challenges.
- It was suggested that Park and Recreation do a column in the Great Falls Tribune similar to what the Police are doing to inform the public on what is going on in the Park and Recreation Department.
- The Council contacted Rich Ecke with the Great Falls Tribune, he thought it was a good idea and the column will occur with Audrey Finelson, NHC #4 doing the first story.
- Board is welcome to become participate in these columns.

*Centene Parking Lot Improvements*

- Centene Stadium is working with United Materials as a trade to use the millings that are being removed from the River Drive repaving project for the completion of their parking lot. United Materials will lay and roll out to grade the millings in exchange for a sign at Centene Stadium and 2 sets of box seats for the next 2 years. This is a good community project and both parties win.
- We will be responsible for the pin-down curb and removing the stockpile of millings by the driving range. Some of the milling will be used for a walking path in Clara Park also.
- Inquiry on the outcome on light pole that fell down at Centene Stadium

- City's insurance denied the claim, and Centene's insurance denied the claim also; things that fail due to fatigue are not covered by insurance;
- The City paid for the entire project;
- All other light poles were reviewed and re-welded to secure the bottoms.

*Playground Structure at Skyline, Jaycee and Pinski Parks*

- Skyline and Jaycee Park play structures are on the way from the manufacturer.
- Staff is doing required dirt work at Skyline now for structure placement
- Pinski Park play structure design has been chosen and will be order this week. \$34,499 available through CDBG funds for this play structure.

*Growth Plan – Park Master Plan*

- The City is working on a growth plan with Planning Department heading it up;
- Open House was held last week in the Civic Center
- Park and Recreation is part of the growth plan and some of the discussion items included:
  - inventory of all facilities,
  - describe and summarize programs,
  - level of service,
  - planning horizons;
  - new master plan for Park and Recreation
- As property is annexed into the City we have the option of either taking parkland or cash in lieu of parkland
- Plan to be completed within the next year; public participation, working groups and steering committees.

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Natatorium closed on August 5<sup>th</sup> and will remain closed until August 20<sup>th</sup> for regular maintenance
- Working on the specifics for the boiler replacement at the Natatorium; this project will take 2-3 weeks to complete and will be done in November. The pool will be closed again for this project.
- Jaycee and Water Tower will close for the season on the 19<sup>th</sup>; the spray parks will be open until the 28<sup>th</sup> and offer free entrance from 2:00-6:00 daily.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.