

**Park & Recreation Board
Monday, October 8, 2012
Minutes**

Board Present: Charlie Bruckner, Patrick Carroll, Bill Ramsey, Michael MacDonald, Karen Harant, Russell Motschenbacher

Board Absent: Richard Kavulla

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Patty Rearden, Giles Salyer, Cindy Stein

Others: Bill Hughes, Wayne Hasbrouck, Melissa Dascoulias, Polly & Gary Carlstad all representing Skyline Park. Phil Scriver for Interpretive Signage.

With no corrections or additions to the minutes from September board meeting, board motioned to approve as written. Motion seconded and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Work on RET – Westbank park trail sections;
- New trail segment at Gibson Park by Vinegar Jones cabin and Girl Scout house;
- 62 trees planted at Westbank park in memory of Gary Trescott;
- September 28th press conference to kick off the community garden at Community Hall park, they have purchased lots of trees for the orchard already;
- City Commission approved the RET maintenance plan to TD&H for \$32,000.;
- Skate park mural vandalism that occurred will be re-done by Rachael Kazier next spring/summer; Rachael has received over \$500 in donations to re-do the mural. There is a \$100 reward offered by a donor for information on the vandalism;
- Realignment of RET behind the police station to River Drive is in the discussion stage of realigning; adding warning lights for crossings and tunneling under the railroad tracks. There may be funding available from Dept. of Transportation for flashing lights.

OLD BUSINESS

River Fund Grant request – Broadwater Bay Boat Ramp

Marty attended the River Fund Committee/PPL in Helena to do a presentation on the grant request to replace the boat ramp at Broadwater Bay. Current ramp is a concrete slab hooked together with metal braces and is no longer safe for loading and unloading watercraft. Grant request is under \$50,000 to replace the concrete ramp. Marty feels our request is within the top 5 that could be granted. There were 16 total grant requests submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Interpretive Signage

Phil Scriver with the Interpretive Center/Portage Route Chapter, is proposing new signs to be placed at Westbank Park by the grizzly bear sculpture to expand the interpretation at that location and other areas along the trail. During an archeological dig in 2001 there were prehistoric finds. They are proposing to do three 2-sided signs along the River's Edge Trail in the areas where the current sign exists.

Phil has been working on this signage project for 3-4 years; he has identified funding and will know if he received in December. Phil is asking the Park and Recreation department to build and install the signs once they are completed. Phil provided a photo of the location for the signs; Ron Ukrainetz will do the art on the signs.

Skyline Park – Melissa Dascoulias

CTA architects has done a preliminary design for Skyline Park. The Neighbor's in Skyline Park are concerned with this design being in its final approval phase. Park and Recreation has only reviewed the concept and have not taken it to the Park Board for their review until now. In

addition there is no funding source to do any improvements in Skyline Park except what has already been done. Any improvements that are proposed will have to go through the Park and Recreation Board for final approval. The neighborhood concerns are as follows:

- They did not have any input into the design;
- They do not want a parking lot on 36th;
- It is a neighborhood park – not a city park;
- Skyline group has \$500 in fundraising at this time; to complete the project would be over \$400,000;
- Committees need to come together and work together on a solid concept for the park;
- Concern with the Skyline park committee and the neighborhood going in different directions.

City's Growth Policy

Ida Meeham with Community Development

Updating the City's Growth Policy (equivalent of their comprehensive plan); existing one is from 1999.

- There is an on-line survey out;
- There are four working groups;
- Ida has been going to various groups informing them of the growth policy; Social working groups that include parks;
- By having a more user friendly development plan it will help improve decisions being made on the growth of the city.

Gibson Concessions

Jason Loucks had requested to be on the agenda, he was not in attendance.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENT

Staff

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent

- Skyline park progress: play structure is completed, 5 trees have been planted, 4 park benches and 1 picnic table have been installed;
- Jaycee park progress – play structure is completed, 2 trees have been planted, 2 park benches and 1 picnic table have been installed;
- Pinski park progress – play structure is being built now and should be completed by end of the month;
- Most of the snow fence is up in parks;
- Boat docks being removed for winter;
- Natatorium boiler replacement – preconstruction meeting tomorrow and a final date to start with tentative completion date by November 21st.

With no further business meeting adjourned.

Next park board meeting is scheduled for Veteran's Day November 12th, City offices will be closed that day. Options on having the November Park Board meeting one week earlier or on Tuesday, November 13th. Board did not have a preference, staff to notify Board when date is decided.