

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013  
MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Charlie Bruckner, Mike MacDonald, Russell Motschenbacher, Shirley Davis, and Patrick Carroll

**Members Absent:** Karen Harant and William Ramsey

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

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm

**With no corrections or additions to the minutes from February; Board motioned to approve as written. Motion seconded and carried.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Public hearing scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> for the renewal of the Boys & Girls Club lease. Lease will be for 5 years with a 5 year extension, fee is waived.
- Kiwanis Club is proposing to purchase a shelter for Westbank Park; estimated cost to purchase is \$80,000; they currently have \$10,000 available. They will be submitting a request for a Grant from the Park Trust, funds available from the Park Trust is \$2,552 (interest earned only).
- Zayo Corporation (Verizon Wireless) who requested an easement across the Weissman Bridge has made a payment of \$24,000 for the easement. Funds could be used for several projects in Westbank Park or for a trail project.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

***Underutilized Park Land Update***

Commission reviewed the presentation staff put together on underutilized parkland, the following comments were made:

- The City has upcoming debts to pay off and are in need of more money
- They agreed with Park Board recommendations to renew the lease of the Community Hall Park with Mike Shultz
- They recommended we sell Clara Park
  - Masterplan recommended we sell the lower section that is not occupied by the water tank; it will be a hard sell to the neighborhood.
- They suggested we contact homeowners at Westhill Park and either look at selling them a portion or requiring them to remove everything that is encroached onto the park.
  - Clean up request needs to be a priority
- Check with the airport to see if there is interest in them purchasing Westhill Park.

It is understood that any proceeds from parkland sales should be used for park purposes only.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *"Roots" Gibson Park Art*

Mike Hollern has created a sculpture that will be placed in Gibson Park entrance across from Hardee's. (Photos provided) Mike has used all local materials to create this piece of art, with the first piece installed this spring. He is working on the second piece of the sculpture.

### *Great Falls Select Girls Softball Team*

Girls Fast pitch softball organization has requested the possibility of building softball fields in Riverview Park.

- Board was not in favor of allowing softball fields to be built in Riverview Park.
- Not in opposition to the project but feel there could be a better location.
  - Russell Park undeveloped area to be considered

### *Gibson Concessions*

We have been contacted by a group that is interested in putting offices in the Gibson Park and possible a restaurant. They will put a proposal together and bring back to staff.

- Marty suggested we wait to see what type of proposal they will bring back and then give the board an option to review.
- Plan was to tear down the restaurant section of the Park & Ponder, leave the block brick area which would be re-sided and re-roofed and open up a small concessions area.
- Board is not in favor of putting an office building in Gibson Park.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

### *Battle of the Bulge*

- Event is wrapping up.
- Erica and Marian will do a presentation at the end.
- There was one local newsperson involved in the event
  - There will be a news coverage story
  - They will include tips for the upcoming Ice Breaker

### *Easter Egg Hunt*

- Jimmy Filipowicz owner of Steel Etc. will be sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. The event is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at Gibson Park. Mr. Filipowicz has been wonderful to work with on this event.

### *Ice Breaker*

- Materials are all printed and ready for distribution
- Registration starts next Monday
- Good "early registration" prizes offered again this year.

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent

- Forestry crew is finishing up trimming and will start with stumping trees that have been removed earlier.
- Softball registration has started, with league play starting in April.
  - New thing this year is "double header" games for men's league

- Additional cost of \$250 per team for “double header” league.
- Putting in a concrete foundation at Wadsworth Park for the dock
  - With the water level so high the past years we have not been able to put the dock in, this should fix the problem.
- Removing snow fence from parks.
- Flyfisher group to start their project in West Bank Park this spring.

Marty Basta, Director

- Will be meeting with a group called "Extreme Frisbee"; they are interested in putting a Frisbee course in at Westbank Park.
- Will be attending the Bike/Walk Montana Summit this week in Helena.

**With no further business - meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.**