

**Park & Recreation Board Meeting
January 14, 2014
Minutes**

Members Present: Charlie Bruckner, Mike MacDonald, Russ Motschenbacher, Patrick Carroll, Shirley Davis, Karen Harant, William Ramsey

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

Others Present: Teddy Nault, Nicole Bronee City/County Health Department; Kelly Manzer, Neighborhood Council #2; Phyllis Hemsted, Neighborhood Council #2; Mike Shultz; Mike Dalton

Introduction of new Park Board member Shirley Davis

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board motioned to elect Charlie Bruckner as Park and Recreation Board Chairman. Motion seconded and approved.

Board motioned to elect Patrick Carroll as Park and Recreation Board Vice Chairman. Motion seconded and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no additions or changes to the December Park Board minutes; Board motioned to approve as written. Motion seconded and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- \$41,500 grant from PPL for replacement of Broadwater Bay ramp (concrete section)
- Marty is a member of the Bike Walk Montana Board, which is a statewide advocacy group for trails and bikes. Board members received a draft brochure of the boards goals and objectives
 - There is a house bill on the floor HB24 to develop a State Parks and Recreation Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Remote Control Car Track

Chad Shend was not present

Young Lungs at Play

Teddy Nault and Nicole Bronee with the City/County Health Department presented a power point presentation on Young Lungs at Play. The concern with tobacco use in public places.

- Discussion on not allowing smoking around children's playgrounds and to start with Gibson Park playground and surrounding benches.

- Post signs that the CCHD would supply
- Staff to create a resolution for Young Lungs at Play

Board motioned that staff propose tobacco free areas around play structures in parks, and that the board supports the development in a form of a resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Orchard Garden/Community Hall Park

Mike Dalton updated the Board on their Orchard Gardens that was approved last spring by the Board at Community Hall Park.

- Work started on the parcel last September developing several garden sites.
- Mike provided an aerial view of the garden layout which will cover 2.2 acres.
- The immediate goals will be to update and old irrigation system, and alter the gate to allow trucks through.
- Some of the garden spots will be available to neighbors at no charge.
- They will be recruiting unemployed single parents to work the gardens; their pay will be the food they grow.
- Training in gardening to all who participate. There will be classes offered if needed in cooking the foods that are grown.
- They have 1,200 shrubs and trees (12"-18") planted in pots that will be transplanted in the spring.
- Everything is being done on a volunteer basis.
- There are plans to build a pavilion and offer classes on week-ends.
- They will have a grand opening next summer.

Westside Viaduct Park Use Permit

Mike Shultz has had a use permit for the Westside Viaduct property for approximately 28 years.

- The City was approached by a group to purchase the property a few years ago.
 - Neighborhood Council #2 was not in favor of the sale.
- The property does not have much potential for development as it sits between the interstate, the railroad tracks and a bridge.
- The property was once a dumping place for the southwest side of town
 - There could be a costly clean up of the area
 - Board feels the appraisal fees would outweigh the sale of the property.
- The property is not developed; Mr. Shultz has built a fence to house his horses
 - There are no grasses for feed on the property
 - He has been maintaining the property and having the weeds sprayed yearly.
- Options are to continue the use permit with Mike Shultz or have the property appraised and offer it for sale.
- Neighborhood Council is more interested in preserving parkland and not selling parkland

Board motioned to approve the use permit with Mike Shultz for Westside Viaduct Park for a fee of \$150/year. Motioned seconded and approved.

Under Utilized Park Land

The City Manager has requested a list of underutilized parkland.

- Discussion continued on the underutilized parkland.
- None of it would be underutilized if there was funding available to add amenities in all parks such as playgrounds.
- The Board is not in favor of selling parkland, but they are open to discuss each parcel as it comes up.
- There are parks that are partially developed and if they are split and one portion sold that would allow more development for the other portion
 - This has been discussed.
- Concern with selling parkland just because the park is listed as underutilized; concern that there is no potential of ever adding another park in certain areas, it would be lost forever.

Board motioned that they would consider each listed parcel on a case by case basis and make recommendations for the possible sale of parkland and all proceeds to go into the park trust fund.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

Electric City Winter Classic basketball tournament

- 60 teams
- Excellent tournament.

Cross Country skiing and snow shoeing at Eagle Falls

- We have been receiving a lot of calls on why we are not open on evenings and week-ends
 - We don't have staff to be opening and closing gate and getting people off the course.

Giles Salyer, Park & Facilities Superintendent

- Snow removal
- Christmas decorations are almost all down, a few remain at Overlook Park
- Winter maintenance on equipment and miscellaneous
- Applied for a Community Development Block Grant for a play structure at Verde Park.

Board

Kudos's to the Forestry Department for the beautiful Christmas lights at Overlook Park.

Board motioned to close meeting at 4:50pm.