

**Park & Recreation Board
September 10, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Charlie Bruckner, Michael MacDonald, Patrick Carroll, Richard Kavulla, and Karen Harant

Members Absent: Bill Ramsey, Russell Motschenbacher

Staff Present: Giles Salyer, Marty Basta, Todd Seymanski, and Cindy Stein

Others Present: Rich Wilson, Don Hogan, Betty Hogan

Meeting called to order at 3:00p.m.

With no changes to the minutes Board motioned to approve as written, motion seconded and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- City Commission agenda for September 18th:
 - Award contract for Natatorium boiler to AT Klemen's for \$94,725
 - CDBG funds have been received for this project.
- Applied for a grant from the River Fund to replace the ramp at Broadwater Bay.
 - Will meet on October 3rd to review all applications and make final recommendation to the PPL board.
 - Received Riverfront grants before for Westbank Park & Sun River boat ramps.
- Dedication of Sundial at 5:30 today in honor of Gary Tresscott.
- Rachael Kaiser to start Mural at skatepark next week.
- No agreement has been reached for the Cable placement at Weissman Bridge.
- Veterans Memorial would like to name and sign the road that passes the memorial as Memorial Drive. They will pay to have sign made and installed.

Board motioned to approve the Memorial Drive road. Motion seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Westside Orchards

Mike Dalton who presented his project to the Park Board several meetings ago of an orchard to support the food bank; the board recommended to him Community Hall Park;

- They have met with the City Manager
- Board reviewed their plans on the area in Community Hall Park
- They will bring to NH Council 2 this week to discuss with them
- They will pay any costs for use such as water
 - There will have a be a backflow added to the water prior to them using it
- If neighborhood approves they will go forward with the permitting process.

Board is very much in favor of the program, other neighborhood gardens have prospered in the last several years.

Trail Maintenance Plan

Working through the process of awarding the maintenance plan for River's Edge Trail to TD&H Engineering.

- Board received a copy of the engineering plan.

- Fee for the plan came in at \$32,200 with only \$31,000 available
 - They will meet with TD&H to discuss the difference.
 - Project has been funded through a River Fund Grant

NEW BUSINESS

Clara Park presentation – Rich Wilson

Rich Wilson, Don and Betty Hogan present to discuss Clara Park. Mr. Wilson made a presentation board with pictures and information on Clara Park.

- There is a marker (rock) currently in the park designating where Lewis & Clark stood on the high point of the plains
- Alfalfa is the biggest eyesore, with much morning glory and other noxious weeds (counted 300 spotted knapweed)
 - Need to get rid of the noxious weeds
 - Someone has sprayed the park already, some areas missed
 - Knapweed was only knocked out for a week and then it came back
- Trees need to be trimmed; no longer watered
- There was a granite trail put in about 6 years ago
 - Park department will spray in the spring and then get the county to spray again in the summer for the noxious weeds.
 - Granite path will be removed and the millings from street removal will be placed in place of the granite.

Board feels the park should be protected with its historical significance for Lewis & Clark.

Westside Viaduct use Permit

The Use Permit for Westside Viaduct Park with Mike Schultz will expire this month.

- Mike Schultz keeps horses on the property and the park is unusable for anything else.
- It is recommended as surplus property and to be sold.

Two options

- Advertise it for lease
- Appraise and advertise for sale

It is recommended that we try to sell the property.

Board motioned to support the recommendation to pursue the sale of the property. Motion seconded and carried.

Don Olson Fields Lease Agreement

Marty met with Bill Stuff and the Don Olson group to discuss their lease of Don Olson fields on 13th Street and 15th Avenue South.

- They have leased for the past 20+ years
- They would like a 50 year lease to make improvements to the property.
 - Current lease is 10 years with a 5 year extension.
 - It was suggested that they purchase the property.
- Board they have already done some improvements to the area
- Would not be able to sell the property for less than the appraised value per City ordinance.

Board feels we would be better off to sell the property than enter into a 50 year lease with Legion Ball Club.

Board motioned to approve the sale of the property to Legion Ball Club; would rather see the City pursue the sale than a long term lease.

CTEP funds

John Smith worked on a project to replace the bollards along river drive that have been broken over the year, estimate of project was more than \$80,000; CTEP grant requires a 13.45% match of approx. \$12,000.

- Park Trust funds were mentioned for the match
 - Marty does not recommended that we use the park trust for this project;
 - Meeting with Historic Preservation Board this week, they have access to funding for historic preservation.
 - We are still looking at pursuing the CTEP grant but not using park trust as matching grant.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff

Giles Salyer, Park Maintenance Superintendent

- Play structure for Skyline park is completed; benches will be placed; funded through Leadership Great Falls;
- Jaycee play structure will be completed this Friday; funded by Leadership Great Falls;
- Pinski park play structure arrived today, purchased with CDBG funds;
 - Structure is much larger than the Skyline and Jaycee play structures and will take longer to install;
- Snow fence installation will take 2 to 3 weeks;
- Natatorium boiler project to be scheduled in November;
- Fox Hollow Park received an upgrade to the lift station, ground water has kept the park wet all summer long; should be completed soon.

Todd Seymanski, City Forester

- Lost 66 boulevard Trees and 8 park trees this year to Dutch Elm Disease;
- Dropped from 580 to 33 ash trees removed;
- Storms took care of 12-15 trees;
- Trimming & watering until Christmas lights in early October and then leaf pickup

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.