

**Park & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2013
Minutes**

Members Present: William Ramsey, Michael MacDonald, Patrick Carroll, Russell Motschenbacher, Shirley Davis

Members Absent: Charlie Bruckner, Karen Harant

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Giles Salyer, Becky Hapka

Others Present: Mike Dalton, Paul Schmook

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm. With no corrections or additions to the minutes from April, Board motioned to approve as written. Motion second and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marty Basta updated the board on the following:

- Park Trust balance is down so the interest earned is also down
- Park and Recreation faced with difficult decisions over the next 3 years with the possible loss of general fund support in areas
- Pools are not sustainable without general fund support
- Will be attending Neighborhood Council #2 and #3 meeting
 - Faith Lutheran Church would like to buy property next to Skyline School
- Council #4 meeting with Clara Park on the agenda and the possibility of selling that park
- We are not actively looking to sell any park land
- Flow Rider pad replacement is going well
- Skyline basketball courts will be completed prior to school getting out, Optimist Club donated \$20,000 for the courts
- Working on a PPL Recreation Grant to build a new updated restrooms at Oddfellows Park
- Animal Shelter is doing a fundraiser for the new shelter, question on selling things in our parks

Board motioned that vendors not be allowed in the parks for the Animal Shelter Fundraiser. Motion seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report

NEW BUSINESS

Westside Orchard Garden Update

Mike Dalton with Westside Orchard Garden updated the board on all the activity. It has been a year since they started this program. Mike Dalton shared a power point presentation on what has happened in the past year and where they are at now.

- Sunburst Unlimited had acquired all nursery stock from a nursery outside of Ft. Shaw with fruit and other trees, they winterized the nursery stock (1,200); they sold 700 trees as a fundraiser.
- They also got 15 gallon pots (1,000) that they are putting potatoes in them which will generate about 1,000 lbs of potatoes;

- They are doing raised beds and have received a lot of supplies from local companies and with the money they made on the fundraiser they hired an organic farmer who is supervising the planting and design.
- They have planted a pumpkin patch for the Boys & Girls Club, they will be responsible for raising the pumpkins and red wiggler worms to sell; older summer camps kids will be doing a lot of watering this summer.
- Bees have been put in the southwest corner and are doing their pollination
- In same area as bees – the Rebecca Lodge ladies have asked to plant their flowers and herbs that will be very attractive for the bees
- They are building a rain catchment system;
- Neighbors took 60-80 trees and shrubs to plant in their yards
- Compost bins are in
- 500 tomato plants will be planted end of month, coming from the Flower Farm
- Classes and workshops will take place twice monthly all summer long.

Board received an invitation to the grand opening/garden tour scheduled for May 25th from 10-1pm. Marty commended Mike Dalton on his Westside Gardens and his involvement in the community, and neighbors, etc.

Riverview Park Baseball

Paul Schmook, Great Falls Selects, a girls fastpitch softball team was present to discuss the fast pitch girls teams and the need for additional field space long term. He renewed his request to lease Riverview Park. He attempted to address concerns about parking, noise and errant balls.

The Board suggested that the Selects look at the City softball fields next to Countryside Village. Paul did not realize this might be an option; Paul will meet with City staff on site to discuss.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent

- Softball league has started and is going well
 - Had one accident last week, a broken leg
- Sweeping and mowing parks
- Gopher control and dandelion problems continue
 - We are trying to get the gophers
 - Spraying when possible, can't do it when it is windy and weather is bad
- Boat docks are in at Broadwater Bay
- Forestry is trimming and planting
- Ice Breaker went really well, received a lot of complements
 - It was Giles last Ice Breaker

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.