

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Members Present: Charlie Bruckner, William Ramsey, Patrick Carroll, Karen Harant, Shirley Davis, Russell Motschenbacher

Members Absent: Michael MacDonald

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Patty Rearden, Cindy Stein

Other Present: Jerry Meinhardt

Meeting called to order at 3:00.

With no corrections or additions to the minutes from August, Board motioned to approve as written. Motion carried.

Director's Report

A Resolution referencing the Tobacco Free Zones that was discussed with the Health Department earlier this year will be on the September 13th commission. This Resolution allows us to place signs designating "tobacco free zones" in city parks by children's playground areas and at city pools.

The Folf Course that was built in West Bank Park was dedicated on Friday with a Grand Opening ceremony. The committee that did the project laid the course out nicely and everything is signed for Folf players. The Folf Course was funded through donations from local businesses sponsoring each basket (hole) at \$500. All work has been done by volunteers.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

Fly Board

Fly Boarding, Brad Roamane was not present. Marty shared photos of Fly Boarding and what it is all about (attached). Mr. Roamane's proposal is to rent fly boarding equipment at Broadwater Bay. Board did not feel that the activity would be a good choice for Broadwater Bay and the Missouri River, great concerns with safety of users.

Motion made to not allow fly boarding activity at Broadwater Bay due to safety concerns. Motion seconded and carried.

Lewis & Clark Festival

The Lewis & Clark Festival originated in 1989 and was held at West Bank Park, Giant Springs State Park, or FWP until 2005 when they moved the event to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. In 2014, they will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Festival. They are proposing the event be held off site in a larger venue to better accommodate crowds and space for hosting exhibits, presentations, and living history presenters. They are requesting the use of

Gibson Park for the 25th Anniversary event. Event is scheduled for June 20-22 (Friday-Sunday), list of what events will be happening:

- Plains Indian encampment
- Teepees from different tribes (different types of teepees)
- Lots of presentations
- Games (native)
- Other tents
- Food concessions
- Crafters market
- Doing a comedy sketch/act at the Mansfield Theater
- Some music during the day

This will be a onetime venue for the festival and they will return to their location at the Interpretive Center in 2015.

Board motioned to approve the use of Gibson Park for the 25th Anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Festival. Motion second and approved.

Marty will also inform the City Manager of their intent to host the event in Gibson Park.

Small Efficient Homes/West Kiwanis Park

Jeff Sherman was not present. Marty presented his idea of taking West Kiwanis Park and extending 2nd Avenue NW through the middle of the park and building small cost efficient homes for the snowbird population in Great Falls in the Park.

Board motioned to not approve the request for taking West Kiwanis Park and turning sections into small cost efficient homes. Motion seconded and approved.

Box Car Mural Design

Rachel was to bring her design for the box car on the River's Edge Trail, she was not present. It was decided that the Board does not need to approve the design. Marty and Doug Wicks will review her design prior to starting the project.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Public

Doug Wicks, RTI, Inc.

Doug updated the board on what is happening on the River's Edge Trail.

- New trail signs with distances to be placed on trail.
- PPL Montana grant to take care of shoulder drop off along the trail - \$54,000 total cost of project - do first phase with grant.
- Transportation Alternative Program (replaces CTEP program); requested grant to replace all of the 4' wide sidewalk in West Bank park; project estimated cost is \$158,000, applied for grant in the amount of \$134,000 with RET to pay the remaining \$23,000.
- Trail connection between Visitor Information Center and 10th Ave South. Proposing to create a useable ADA shoulder, curb and sidewalk away from traffic, cost would be \$386,000, grant requested in the amount of \$366,900 and \$19,300 from RET.

- Next potential project in a series of trail improvements planned for West Bank Park – ADA improvements to parking lot and minor trail reconstruction
 - Proposed funding from the Weismann Bridget project, RTI funds and Tax Increment funds. Grant application is for \$57,000 with matching funds coming from these funds. Marty to check on availability of tax increment funding.
- Completed a single track trail between Ryan Dam and Cochran Dam and now working on Cochran Dam to Rainbow Dam (backsides) - all off road north shore trails.

Jerry Meinhardt on Pickleball

Jerry explained the game of Pickleball to the Board. It is played on a small tennis court and similar to playing ping pong. There is an active group in Helena (Waldo park) and in Cascade where they also have a court. The game is played with a wiffle ball and paddle and the court is approximately half the size of a tennis court, more the size of a badminton court. Jerry would like to see a court in Great Falls.

Board suggested that Jerry come back with additional information on courts, photos, possible costs and a location for further discussion.

Staff

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

- “Drool In the Pool” the 1st Annual Dogs in Mitchell Pool event was held on Saturday, September 7th with approximately 60 dogs attending - all had a great time.
- “Get Fit Great Falls” is bringing Abby Wambach to Great Falls to conduct a free clinic and paid clinic for youth. Indian Health Center is one of the sponsors of the Abby Wambach event and they will also be hosting an event at the Natatorium Park.
- Patty serves on the Confero Foundation Board. They underwrite all the basketball tournaments held in Great Falls over the winter. They also will be hosting a fundraiser at the Expo Park on September 28th from 5:00-11:00.

Board

Bill had asked about the Youth Orchestra article where the Commission did not approve the contract. The contract will go back on the Commission Agenda on the 17th.

The pull out on Lower River Road seems to be collecting a lot of trash, can more garbage cans be put there.

Board inquired on any more contact with the fly fishing group that proposed to set up a practice area in West Bank Park. There has been no communication with the Fly Fishers.

Northwestern Energy will be installing a transformer by the pump house at the end of the Weismann Bridge. MDT is going to have the power line bored under the roadway. They will remove the poles that run through Sight & Sound Park for \$3,000. Park Trust Fund will be used to pay the \$3,000 for pole removal.

Board commented on the Christmas lights being put up at Overlook Park already. Forestry has a schedule and they need to get them up prior to any snow otherwise they would not be able to get their equipment in there with the hill.

Shirley Davis will not be present at the October meeting.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.