

**Park & Recreation Board**  
**March 9, 2015**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: William Ramsey, Lynn Ulmer Oatman, June Sprout, Patrick Carroll, Shirley Davis, Charlie Bruckner  
Members Absent: Russ Motschenbacher

Staff Present: Joe Petrella, Patty Rearden, Lonnie Dalke, Cindy Stein

**Director Report**

*Joe Petrella, Park & Recreation Director*

Board received a copy of the monthly report for January, February that is provided to the City Manager. (attached)

- Statistics for the Natatorium are down
  - Need ways to promote facility;
  - Some structure components needed - and what we want to invest
- Board asked about the After School Program at the Community Recreation Center
- Eagle Falls Golf Course to open on Friday
- July to be proclaimed as Park and Recreation Month
  - Staff looking at activities we can do

**Deputy Director**

*Patty Rearden*

- City Commission has approved the use of the TIFF funds for Westbank Park improvements.
  - Design of restroom
  - Design of water/sewer, Public Works
  - Irrigation plans - TDH to design
  - Hope to get the bulk of it done this summer
- Ice Breaker scheduled for April 26th with registration starting March 16
- Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4th

**OLD BUSINESS**

Joe informed the board what he found out on "cash in lieu" of parkland. It is the 11% on tax in lieu of undeveloped land, and cannot be based on cost of developed land.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Masterplan Discussion, Joe Petrella*

The last Masterplan was completed in 1995 included parks and very little recreation. We are in the process of developing an RFP (request for proposals) for a Recreation Masterplan that will give us a strategic direction on where we should be headed. Costs range from \$70,000-\$90,000. Staff would like to use the Calumet donation to fund the Masterplan.

Proposals must include

- Community approach - meetings throughout the city

- Meetings with board
- Meetings with commission
- 4 outside meetings throughout the city
- Statically valid needs assessments
- Citizens who utilize and don't utilize
- Will not include golf courses
  - will talk about golf in the community
- Sets our direction and gives guidance on what the community wants
- Includes policy development, fees recommendations
- It will incorporate every age group

Board will receive a draft copy once it is completed. Need to do sooner than later, funding approval needs to go through the People's Park Foundation. It will be an open bid process.

Calumet funds available \$129,000

Masterplan estimated cost \$90,000

Community Recreation Center soft playroom (not sure on final costs)

Time frame for Masterplan

- CD/Planning review draft
- Get approval of funding
- Get RFP out to potential companies by June/July for bids
- Bids submitted by September.

Board interested in visiting every park in Great Falls as a group. Staff to check into getting the Van from the Community Recreation Center

Board inquired about the aquatic debt being paid off this fall and what plans there are for that money. Need to increase our fund balance for the pools and the golf courses once the debt is paid off at both locations.

*Community Gardens – Mike Dalton*

Mike Dalton was not present. Joe informed the board that he has discussed with Mike his idea of using Chowen Springs Park (section) to develop a community garden.

- School District currently uses a portion for football practice
- Staff will need to develop an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the school district to determine what parks they use for practices.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Staff**

*Lonnie Dalke, Park Supervisor*

- 4 seasonal employees have been hired in March
- Working on removal of the snow fence
- Dudley Anderson play structure is here and staff will start prepping the area as weather permits.

- Graffiti becomes a bigger problem when weather is nicer so we are seeing a lot more
- 30" main will be replaced between Broadwater Bay and Oddfellows Park. Project starts the end of April and will take approximately 3 months to complete. This will affect use of Oddfellows park and some of the parking at Broadwater Bay through most of June.
- Warming hut at Gibson, (Park and Ponder), plans are to remove it.

**With no further business - meeting adjourned.**