

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
Monday, April 11, 2016
Minutes

Members present: Patrick Carroll, George Geise, Lonnie Hill, Erin Madison-Granger
Members Absent: Lynn Oatman, June Sprout, Shirley Davis
Guest: Cory Proctor, KRTV

Board motioned to approve the March 2016 meeting minutes as written, motion was seconded and carried.

Directors Report

Monthly Report: The Recreation Center fitness center is doing well. Performance at Natatorium was excellent with a 70% cost recovery. Would like to get to a cost recover of 60% annually; has been 30-35% annually. Daily entries were very good. Swim lessons did well. Patrons raised over \$8,000 in fundraisers for the Natatorium. The City Commission delayed approval of CDBG funding on the interior doors at the Nat; decision needs to be made whether to move forward or move the funding to another project. Joe and the City Manager recommended moving forward with the doors.

Both golf courses are now open. The Golf Advisory Board wasn't able to recommend two members at Golf Advisory Board meeting. They recommended appointment for the women's golf position but wanted to extend the application deadline for the at-large position for two weeks as they wanted time to do further recruitment. The department has been very busy and things are picking up. The City Commission tour went well; they were overwhelmed by all the needs. The River's Edge Trail Foundation gave a presentation to the City Commission. It was fairly basic: where they were, where they are and where they want to go in the future. They have some big plans in the future including the project on River Drive South.

Old Business

Master Plan Update

The draft of the statistically accurate survey is in. Joe will provide the final survey to the Board when it is complete. Highlights include: 82% visited parks and trails in the past 12 months, 86% rated their condition as excellent or good, 69% used trails and 94% rated them as excellent or good. The lack of features in the parks rated high. Programs: 24% participate in programs; main reasons for not participating were too busy/not interested. 62% have participated in special events. 77% said they have a need for walking or biking trails, 69% for neighborhood parks and 57% for pools and water parks. Importance of trees rated very high with 81% rating trees in parks and along streets as important. Trails, parks, pools and golf courses all rated high for needed facilities in Great Falls. There is a huge amount of information in the survey. Jana Cooper with TD&H is nearing completion of the assessment of parks. The consultant will make a presentation to the City Commission at the Work Session on May 3 on the results of the survey. Joe distributed the consultant's schedule for May 3 and 4 and invited the Park Board to attend any sessions they would like. The on-line survey is now available; over 300 have already been completed. Upon completion of the survey, it has been decided to do the equity mapping for the following areas: small neighborhood parks, outdoor swimming pools, golf courses, off-leash dog parks, playgrounds, large community parks, large covered picnic areas, tennis courts, swimming pools, recreation centers, youth baseball/softball fields - 60' and 65' bases, baseball fields - 90' bases, multi-purpose/rectangle fields, and outdoor sport courts (basketball/not tennis).

West Bank Park Update

Calumet/BNSF

The plan is to reroute the road on City property from the intersection near the Wastewater Treatment plant to the pavilion. The large lot at the end of the existing road will go away. Smaller parking areas will

be along the road. The city is working on funding for the Calumet project. Construction of the rail line will start after the 4th of July. There will be two lines total, the existing line and one new line. \$800,000 is projected for the full project. There is a possibility of a 50-50 match with the state for the gates at the railroad crossing.

Landscaping and Irrigation

Design for landscaping and irrigation is nearly complete and ready to go out to bid. The current schedule is to open bids on June 8, go to the City Commission for approval on June 21 and begin construction on July 5. The original plan was to begin the project after the TA (Transportation Alternative) grant for trails was complete, but the soonest the State can issue the Notice to Proceed is August 29. Therefore, the landscaping and irrigation project will proceed earlier and the final components will be finished after the trail project is complete. City staff wanted to make sure the TIF money for the landscaping and irrigation was used in a timely fashion and that the West Bank Park project was substantially complete this summer. The project will include an attractive sign; we would like to standardize all park signs; a design meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

New Business

No new business.

Staff Reports

Todd Seymanski

- Trimming trees
- Deferred equipment issue is catching up with us; we've had a lot of down time from equipment being broken down.
- Tree planting will probably have to wait until next year; the water truck is not working well; need to be able to consistently water new trees. Will move that line item to next year and hopefully be able to do twice as much. It's about 50-50 on number of people who take care of the trees in front of their house; we need to make sure new trees are watered

Lonnie Dalke

- West Bank Park rest room opened last Friday. It will be open dawn to dusk.
- Eight seasonals are back to work doing cleanup, etc.
- Doing lots of spring cleaning in parks
- Working on irrigation
- Poured a concrete pad on north side of the Civic Center for a generator, and moved the irrigation.
- Putting cassaron around mulched trees and landscape beds (weed control). The rain was well timed to activate the cassaron.
- Mulching trees in Gibson Park and on the boulevards.
- Ramp at Broadwater Bay is now complete.

Patty Rearden

- The Easter Egg Hunt went well with an estimated 600+children and their families. The Easter Egg Hunt was sponsored by Steel, Etc. (funded entire event), and Jim Sargent of KMON and Nick Northern of K-99 provided music and entertainment. Cascade FFA stuffed 6,300 eggs and assisted with the event. Community Recreation Center employee volunteered to be the Easter Bunny.
- Ice Breaker registration began March 14 and is going well; registration is also available on line and at Scheels in Holiday Village this Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Launched the advertising campaign for the Ice Breaker Road Race including television, newspaper, distribution of posters and brochures, road signs, billboards, Ice Breaker web site, and press releases.

- Staff is working with Confero Sports Foundation on a fundraiser for improvements at Multi Sports Complex.

Board Questions/Comments

Pat Carroll asked questions regarding irrigation for Little League and the Endowment set up in the People's Park and Recreation Foundation. We pay a portion of the water bill for the Little League fields. That was agreement made many years ago. It will likely change in the future after the Master Plan is completed. An endowment was set up in the People's Park and Recreation Foundation from a portion of the donation from Calumet. Only the interest will be spent. It also gives people the opportunity to donate to the Foundation through wills, etc. Pat also commented that Steel Etc. does a lot for the community and should get more recognition. Joe remarked that we need to establish a volunteer recognition program.

Call for public comment