

**Park and Recreation Board**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Shirley Davis, Patrick Carroll, Lynn Oatman, June Sprout, George Giese

Members Absent: Erin Madison Granger, Lonnie Hill

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

Others Present: John Hughes, Trevor Hughes, Cyndi Hughes

Meeting called to order at 3:01pm

**With no corrections or additions to minutes from the July meeting, board motioned to approve; motion second and approved.**

**Director's Report**

- Staff did an amazing job this summer with programming and participation.
- Board received the 2016 attendance/revenue statics for the Electric City Water Park.
  - Revenue increased by \$19,000 compared to 2015.
  - Marian has done a nice job of programming new events.
  - Jaycee and Water Tower pools did well this summer also.
- Community Recreation Center summer camps were at capacity this summer.
  - 29 children were on the waiting list
  - Unable to increase due to transportation issue
- Gym floor at the Community Recreation Center has been sanded and refinished.
  - added lines for pickle ball courts
  - Erica has increased participation every year with her programs
- Natatorium is at the highest cost recovery in years; Marian is moving the bar forward.

Board inquired about the vendor in parks being very scarce this summer. Joe agreed they were not very active.

**Old Business**

*Westbank Park Update*

- Landscape and irrigation project started end of August, there were issues with relocation problems that had to be solved before moving forward.
- TA trail project did not start due to the weather and moving of current amenities; project should be completed before the snow falls.

*Master Plan Update*

- Process is on schedule and should be completed in November.
- Initial capital improvement projects bucket list needs additional information on parks.
- Consultant scheduled to meet with the Park Board on October 25<sup>th</sup>, will change the October board meeting to the 25<sup>th</sup> unless there is a pressing matter to take care of.
- Working on a City Commission initiative to see what park districts can do for Great Falls.
  - Billings passed their district by showing the capital improvements

- Citizens were able to see what their money was going towards - 50% to CIP and 50% to maintenance.

## **New Business**

### *Team KAIZEN Presentation*

Josh Hughes, owner of the game studio “Kaizan”

- Team KAIZEN entered a contest through Sony to get the Play Station truck out here and won.
- Sony threw a party when they heard what they were doing. The Play station truck came to Great Falls and made a video of the event. (Josh shared the video)
- They design their own video games while teaching students the science behind the games.
- Often hear from parents that there is nothing to do with computer science, games are a computer science.
- 3D art tools - tools bag that teaches students how to create a game.
- Little big job teaches you how to program (JavaScript);
- They offer camps at the CRC, Paris Gibson Square.
- In the XQ competition to see if they can get a micro grant to continue in the computer science.
- Grant is from Childs Play that teaches kids - teamed up with Great Falls Young Actors Guild that had a 501C3 status. They will take over their 501c3 and rename it. Ingenium (unlocking your own potential); there will be a video game studio and non-profit impacting kids through computer science.
- Purpose statement - world domination through video games - show people that it is more than just games, turning the life around for young kids
  - Teach them to be writers, codes, programmers in making a game - very transferable skills in computers. Little Big Plant
- Working on getting them partnered with the Park & Recreation Foundation - supporting our entire mission of park and recreation.

### *Pickle ball petition/court development (formational)*

- Received a petition with 150 signatures to build Pickle Ball courts.
  - \$30,000 to refurbish, our courts are beyond refurbishing.
  - Missoula has a \$38,000,000 project to develop one of their parks where they will have a pickle ball court and tennis courts \$1,000,000 cost.
  - Whitefish - just under \$90,000 - money came from the resort tax.
- Have discussed with local groups the process of a 50/50 match to develop a court; they would have to come up with 50% of the total costs.
- Master plan questionnaire, courts were low on the needs/wants.
- With all the deferred maintenance we currently are facing due to funding, it is hard to grab another thing.
- Westwood Park where CMR tennis courts are located has been leased by the GFSD and they have re done those courts which will also stay open to the public.

### *Naming of Parks*

John England with the Lewis & Clark Portage Chapter is interested in getting a park named after their Chapter.

- There are set commission guidelines in place for renaming a park
  - Includes either a major financial donation or service contributions to the park. 60% minimum towards development of the park.
  - Working on the policy and will bring back to the Board with the final draft prior to Commission approval. This is one of a few internal policies that we will bring to the commission. Need answers to the questions within the current ordinance.
- Multi Sports was brought up with it not being a “multi sports” complex and should be renamed.

#### *Park Rules Ordinance Change*

Offense against public decency. There was a situation with youth shooting gophers in Portage Meadows, the police were called and we found out it is not against the law to shoot a gun within city limits

- Joe is working with the City attorney to make it illegal to shoot in city parks, looking at adding to park rules ordinance
  - Provisions to include Boy Scout rocket projects; Lewis & Clark with the black power. (need special permission to continue)
- Will include allowing camping at Multi Sports during tournament.
- Will go to commission as it reads...Board received the draft Article P in the Park Rules

**Board motioned to recommend article P in the Park Rules ordinance to the City Commission for their approval, motion second and carried.**

#### **Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements**

*Natural Resource, Todd Seymanski, City Forester*

- Dodged every wind storm that came through Great Falls this summer.
- Dutch elm disease - 20 trees to be removed.
- Lots of trimming done this summer, put a big dent in our list
- Continue on with trimming and start planning for next year.
- Hazardous list down to 240 (from 1967); we are not doing a lot of stuff we use to do such as weeding.
- Will spend a lot of time in Gibson this winter and Rhodes trimming all the large trees
- Have received some comments on the Christmas tree not being put up, there is a group that wants to raise money to keep it there.
  - If they raise the funds it will be contracted out
  - Keeping our focus on boulevard and park trees only
- Staff received a great compliment on the Gibson Flower Gardens this year
  - We eliminated some flower beds allowing us to focus on the main flower garden.

*Parks, Lonnie Dalke, Park Supervisor*

- Stayed busy all summer with the good weather; lots of irrigation breaks, etc.

- Replacing trails in some parks
- Manual irrigation parks, had 3 seasonal staff taking care of them, thanks to the rain the parks stayed nice after they left
- Sun shade in Gibson Park worked well during Wednesday band concerts.
  - will be removed for the winter
- Chown Springs - received a new play structure this summer, includes a merry-go-round.
- The floods did some damage to parks and golf course - wash out paths, and cart paths.
- Broadwater/Overlook statue by Lewis & Clark will have 2 walls built for attaching plaques.
  - The portage group has raised the funds to complete this project. Oswood construction will do the project.
- Field #1 at multi sports complex was cut to regulations (infield) and will receive a new backstop.

#### *Miscellaneous*

Steffan Janikula, trails coordinator received some very kind words from Doug Wicks on the Rivers Edge Trail maintenance and getting things done

- Park maintenance assists on the projects.
- Exciting to get compliments from Doug himself.

Peoples Park & Recreation Foundation is considering using some of the Calumet donation funds for a pavilion at Westbank Park.

- 20x24 shelter is recommended close to the restrooms.
- \$51,000-\$66,000 is the estimated cost.

#### **Call for Public Comment**

No other comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm**