

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
OCTOBER 10, 2011
MINUTES**

Members present: Bill Ramsey, James McCarvel, Karen Harant, Bryan Thies, and Charlie Bruckner

Members absent: Richard Kavulla, Russell Motschenbacher

Staff Present: Todd Seymanski, Marty Basta, Giles Salyer, Cindy Stein

Others Present: Keith Cron, Jennifer Reichelt, and Doug Wicks

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

Board motioned to accept the minutes as written for August and September Board meeting, motion seconded and carried.

MRPA Awards Presentation

Doug Wicks was nominated and received the Citation of Merit Award from the Montana Recreation and Parks Association for 2011. Doug was unable to attend the MRPA meeting in Billings, staff presented the award to Doug along with the nomination information during the Park Board meeting. Nomination write up attached.

Board received a copy of the proposed trail signs to be placed along River's Edge Trail.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Westside Little League lease will be on the Commission Agenda on October 18th to set the public hearing for the following Commission meeting.
- Rocky Mountain Tree Care contract to remove 592 Ash trees will be on the City Commission agenda on October 18th for approval. Staff is not recommending the lowest bidder; there are concerns about the low bidder's ability to do the tree removal work. Board concurred.
- Kiwanis Club has matched a \$5,000 donation for a memorial for Pete Bleskin's son; Marty met with Mark Capis to discuss the idea of a shelter at West Bank Park next to the non-motorized boat launch. Staff will bring back for approval when more information is available.
- Discussion on whether there should be a grand opening ceremony for the new tennis courts at Elk's Riverside Park; Jim McCarvel did not feel it would be necessary since they had a ceremony at CMR Tennis Courts already.

OLD BUSINESS

Gibson Park Lighting Project

All but one pole has been installed in Gibson Park; the last pole the contractor was hitting rock and would come at a high cost to remove the rock. The globes should be here next week. All work was done through a CTEP grant of \$120,000, the project costs are \$88,000 for the lights and \$9,000 for the consultant. The matching grant from the People's Foundation will be less for the installation and the remaining grant funds will be used to pay the ongoing electrical costs for this project

Elk's Riverside Play Structure

Elks Riverside Park play structure is completed; staff would like to see the same type in Jaycee and Skyline parks when funds become available.

Westbank Park Boat Launch

Westbank Park boat launch is completed with \$23,000 used out of the \$40,000 River Fund Grant that was received. The dock has a launch system and staff is putting in a request to use the remaining funds to add the same launch system to the Sun River non-motorized boat ramp. Poncelot did the dirt work and the docks were purchased through EZ Docks.

NEW BUSINESS

Playgrounds (Leadership Great Falls)

Keith Cron and Jennifer Reichelt, members of Leadership Great Falls have chosen play structures for Jaycee and Skyline Parks as a fundraising project to assist with the Neighborhood Councils fundraising efforts. Leadership Great Falls is a 10 month program and they are required to select a project to complete within the 10 months. They inquired about the use of Park Trust Funds and how they apply for a Park Trust Grant. Marty explained that the Trust has \$332,000 available and the interest earned is used for matching grants. The deadline to apply for a Park Trust Grant is December 15th of each year. Balance in Park Trust Fund was recently used for Hurd Tennis Courts and Centene Stadium. Marty also informed Jennifer that it is possible to tap into the Park Trust balance for projects.

Revenue options could be to sell a portion of Skyline Park; Neighborhood Council #3 favors selling .9 acres at the far end of the park. Another option would be to sell 2.6 acres of undeveloped parkland near Skyline School for an estimated value of \$230,000. Board noted that the only way to develop parks would be to sell undeveloped parkland.

Park draft design that was provided by Neighborhood Council #3 for Skyline Park could cost up to \$500,000. Marty will attend the next Neighborhood Council meeting to discuss the sale of Skyline property.

All donations will go through the People's Park Foundation. Board requested an update periodically on their fundraising efforts.

Westside Little League Lease Agreement

The lease for Westside Little League will be on the October 18th Commission Agenda.

Board motioned to approve the lease with Westside Little League; motion seconded and carried.

Rivers Edge Trail Maintenance Plan

Doug Wicks applied for a Trail Maintenance Plan grant for River's Edge Trail in the amount of \$37,500 from the Missouri Madison River Fund and has been rated #2 on their list of grant applications. Doug has also received a match from PPL in the amount of \$7,500 if the other grant is received. A plan will help in the future of the trails and receiving funds to maintain.

Eagle Scout Project

Anthony Anderson, an Eagle Scout, painted the Girl Scout house to receive one of his Eagle Scout badges. Anthony organized a working group, received donated paint and supplies and completed the project. The Girl Scout house looks great and Anthony did a wonderful job.

Skate Park Solar Powered Lighting – Weed & Seed

Staff is requesting a grant from Weed & Seed to add solar lighting at Riverside Skate Park. Lighting will be on tall poles to prevent vandalism. Giles has researched solar lighting and found it to be very

reasonable. After costs are received we will take back to Carol Bronson who administers the Weed & Seed program for possible funding.

Neighborhood Council #3 Report: Skyline and Jaycee Parks

No further business. Discussed under Leadership Great Falls.

MISC REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forestry, Todd Seymanski

- Forde Nursery planted 782 trees with a 1 year guarantee in the Boulevard District. We have about a 10% loss and Forde will be replacing those under the warranty.
- Christmas lights at overlook park to go up before leaf pickup
- Leaf pickup will begin once it freezes
- Staff has been working steadily on trimming trees all summer
- Will sell wood chips this week

Park Maintenance, Giles Salyer

- Blowing out irrigation lines in parks
- Snow fence being placed
- CMR tennis courts wind break netting has caused more pressure on the poles north side. After the 60mph wind we received the poles have bent. Giles will work with a contractor to get a solution to the poles, there was no damage to the tennis courts. No funds have been budgeted for pole replacement.
- Marks Lumber, Clancy MT was contracted to grind the Green Ash trees that have been removed into chips, these chips will be used under play structures. With bringing the contractor to Great Falls we were able to get three times more chips ground at a cost savings.

Board

Board inquired on the electrical use of the In-Flight building up by the airport. The electrical bill is down to \$300, which is still too high. Qwest will be removing all their components this winter. NW energy cannot tell us where the draw is coming from and we are also working with the City electrician to determine if there is a draw from the building. We have already changed the meter out.

With no further business meeting adjourned at 3:57pm