

**Park and Recreation Board
Monday, September 12, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: Bryan Thies, Karen Harant, Richard Kavulla

Members Absent: Charlie Bruckner, Russ Motschenbacher, Jim McCarvel, and Bill Ramsey

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

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm

No quorum. August minutes to be approved at October board meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Gibson Park lighting project to start September 19th with trenching and poles the first week
- September 6th Commission meeting the following items were approved:
 - o Lease of Don Olson fields to the American Legion Baseball club
 - o Non-motorized Boat Launch at Westbank Park contractor agreement
 - o HVAC at Boys & Girls Club contractor agreement
 - o Green Ash chip grinding contractor agreement

OLD BUSINESS

Flow Rider Update

Park and Recreation paid \$40,000 to replace the pad on the flow rider last spring. The pad has been failing through the season with blistering and tears. Staff is requesting a full pad replacement with a 2 year warranty (current pad has 1 year warranty).

NEW BUSINESS

Leadership Great Falls projects

Leadership Great Falls is considering adopting a trail project and/or raising funds for park improvements at either Jaycee or Skyline Park.

Warden Park Gazebo Dedication

There will be a dedication ceremony at Warden Park on Friday, September 16th at 3:00pm. With all the improvements of the trail system, the gazebo, benches and telescope we will be recognizing the parties involved in the improvements at the ceremony. The Park Board is invited to attend the dedication ceremony.

Recreation Center Camp recap

The Community Recreation Centers camp program was a huge success with 1,195 youth enrolled this year compared to 550 in 2007. New camps offered this year were tennis camp and pre-school art camp.

- Kiddie camps pre-school had 144 enrolled;
- Summer camps for ages 2-5 had 533 enrolled;
- Outdoor camps for ages 6-8 had 88 enrolled;
- Sports camp for all ages had 242 enrolled;
- Pre-school Art camp for ages 4-6 had 65 enrolled; and
- Art camp for ages 4-8 had 75 enrolled.

Most camps had waiting lists.

Skyline Park Improvements – Sue Steichen

Sue is interested in helping raise funds for improvements in Skyline Park. The 1995 Park and Recreation Master Plan noted for replacement of playground structure, removing the tires (done), adding picnic area, walking path, drinking fountains and a restroom.

Neighborhood Council is scheduled to meet October 6th and they have on their agenda to develop a concept for improvements at Skyline Park and Jaycee Park and strategies to achieve their goal and funding, both Marty and Giles will be attending that meeting.

Sue has gone door to door talking to the neighbors around Skyline Park and has received overwhelming support of the park. Sue stated that Tilleras has offered to donate trees. Neighbors have concerns with the current sprinkler system in the park (not adequate); it was noted that the system is over 40 years old and would need to be replaced. Sue has also dropped off letters (attached) to the other neighbors and has discussed with Leadership Great Falls group.

Sue is looking for guidelines from the Park and Recreation Department for the park and whether the City has plans to sell off half the park to develop the other half. It was brought up that the developers in that area were required to pay \$2500 to the Park department. Any funds that have been received from developers of the area go into the Park Trust Fund and the interest is used for grants for park improvements and special park projects.

It was noted that the NE corner of Skyline Park is high in alkali and has shale rock right below the surface; the Park department has tried in the past to plant grasses; it was suggested that no irrigation be placed in that area.

The neighborhood would like to see something done as soon as possible with the park and Sue has informed them with the economic times that the neighborhood are going to be the ones to get things done through fundraising, and contacting business to finance projects, etc.

Barbara Winters has offered to draw to scale an idea of what the neighborhood would like to see in the park. Sue has invited Mayor Winters to the Neighborhood Council meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff

Giles Salyer

- The Boys & Girls clubs new HVAC system project also requires a hatch be placed in the roof for access; the project should be completed in approximately 5 weeks.
- Westbank Park boat launch project will start this week with completion in 2 weeks. Staff would like to wait until spring to put in the docks but have to send photos to PPL to show the progress; the project has been funded through a PPL River Fund grant.
- Park and Recreation has contracted the grinding of ash trees into wood chips to be used under play structures; this will be completed in 2 weeks.
- Play structure at Elks Riverside Park should be completed in a couple of weeks.
- Manual irrigation systems in parks are being blown out for the winter.
- Will start putting up snow fence in the next week or so.

Todd Seymanski

- Trimming and removal of trees until leaf pickup begins.
- Bids are out for the removal of 592 green ash trees and stumps, project to begin October 5th.
- Will follow up with 592 tree replacements.
- 781 trees have been replaced so far and we are experiencing some of the new trees dying off; those will be replaced by the contractor that planted them.
- We will be planting Burr Oak, Lynden, Hackberries, Japanese tree Lilac and Norway Maple trees. in the boulevard district.

Board

Richard Kavulla complimented staff on the person who was responsible for the irrigation at Warden Park; she was a very friendly person.

With no further business meeting adjourned at 3:59pm.