

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
AUGUST 8, 2011
MINUTES**

Members Present: Jim McCarval, Charlie Bruckner, Russell Motschenbacher, Bryan Thies, William Ramsey

Members Absent: Karen Harant, Richard Kavulla

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

Others Present: Mary Willmarth, Rachael Kaiser

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

Board motioned to approve the minutes from June, motion second and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marty Basta

- Park and Recreation budget was adopted by the City Commission on July 19th; did not receive the RET maintenance increase of \$5000, 2 additional personnel for park maintenance or the request for 2 new play structures;
- Commission approved the Wadsworth Park lease with the Boy Scouts of America for use of the old skeet club building and surrounding area on July 5th;
- Bi-annual meeting with the Animal Foundation on dog park maintenance July 28th; minutes sent to the City Commission;
- Staff met with planners from the Blackfoot Indian Nation on July 29th to discuss trees, park development and special events;
- Mayhem Trail Phase II inspection scheduled for this week with FWP and working Trails Inc. Trail is east of the Lewis & Clark Overlook. Applied for a PPL Riverfund Grant to develop a trail maintenance plan. The plan will include trail inventory to identify maintenance costs and capital improvements;
- 77th Annual Pet & Doll Parade, was July 28th.

Board

- Question on why they cut budget items. Marty explained the costs for additional staff in the City Clerk's/Attorney's office was necessary to allow the City Attorney's time to work on the Electric City Power issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Play Structure Update – Giles Salyer

Received the play structure for Elk's Riverside Park, staff will install early this fall.

Skate Park Rules – Marty Basta

Public Hearing and adoption of the rules for the Riverside Railyard by the City Commission will be held on July 19th, changes will allow bikes in the park. Ordinance will go into effect 30 days later on August 18th. New rules (sign) will be installed at the skate park and a press release will be in the paper.

Skate Park Art – Rachael Kaiser

Rachael Kaiser was present to review the painting of the Riverside Railyard bowls. Since her last proposal Rachael and Marty have discussed a smaller project on the front of the skate park that faces the street.

- Rachael estimated the cost of the project at \$8,000, Park and Recreation does not have the funding to do the bigger project;
- Park and Recreation staff looking into a grant through Weed & Seed for paint and materials, Marty to follow up;
- Discussion now is to paint an area in the front of the skatepark that is seen from the road approximately 40'x5'. Estimated costs would be \$1150 (\$750 Rachael's pay and \$400 in materials);
- Biggest challenge is how to fund the project;
- Once the first project is completed and others see her work, we may get sponsors to pay for the other bowls;
- Question remains on how to pay for Rachael's time, if Weed & Seed pays for the materials we still have to find funding for Rachael; possible funding match through the Park Foundation and the Park Trust.

American Legion Baseball Lease

The American Legion Baseball Lease of Don Olson fields is scheduled for the August 16th Commission agenda; it is a 10 year lease with a 5 year extension.

Motion made to accept the lease with the American Legion baseball club; motion seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Skyline Optimist Park and Pool Passes – Mary Willmarth

Mary would like to see trees, shelters and a new play structure in Skyline Optimist Park. There are 100's of new homes and families in the vicinity, and there is a need for improvements to the park. Mary is requesting that the park department look for funding to develop Skyline park.

- Staff requested funding for 2 new play structures in 2012 budget; funding was not received;
- Skyline Park is listed in the Master Plan to sell a portion of the park and use that money to develop the other portion;
- Other Neighborhood Council's have held fundraising efforts and received grants through the Park Trust (matching grants) to add play structures in their parks;
- Memorial trees was suggested but there are also issues with the soil in the park;
- Suggested that the Neighborhood Council contact the Optimist Club to see if they would help in funding some development in the Park;
- Marty Basta will research the history with the Optimist and Skyline Park.

Mary suggested that the City offer season passes or punch cards to the swimming pools. Bozeman offers punch cards and other Montana cities offer resident cards/passes.

- The city does offer punch cards for the Neighborhood pools and single passes for the water park at a discounted price if they purchase 10 quantity.
- We offer more than other cities at the Water Park in amenities so hard to charge one price for all.

- Hard to determine if they are a resident or non-resident when suggesting a pass for either.
- Marty provided information from other Montana pools (attached)

Patty – We have lost some subsidy to the swimming pools this budget year from the general fund; in order to stay within our budget we have closed the Natatorium for the month of August and will not open the spray parks next spring until the Jaycee and Water Tower pools open.

NEW BUSINESS

Broadwater Bay Concessions

Julie Bass with Toasted Bean Concessions requested to sell concessions at Broadwater Bay \$300/month or 10% of the gross; it was also suggested they collect the boat launch fees. The concession will be pulled out at the end of every day. Marty informed the board that the duties at the boat launch are not just collecting the fees but also oversees swimmers, and everything else that goes on down there. City ordinance requires that we would have to do an RFP for concessions.

Board is not opposed to the concessions at the boat launch. They also noted that the area may not bring in much revenue.

Westbank Non-motorized Boat Launch

Work to begin next week on the road to the launch area and bids have been received for the boat dock. Funding is through a Missouri River Fund grant of \$40,000.

Giles also discussed the flooding issues at the other launch areas: Sun River area staff had to dig out 4-5' of silt to get to the concrete boat ramp; they will probably keep the docks out this year. Staff cannot get the docks in at Wadsworth Lake due to water levels.

Aquatics

Marty Basta –

- Thanks to the alert efforts of lifeguards and pool staff they rescued a swimmer on July 23rd;
- Closed the Nat for one month with opening again on September 6th. Closure saves \$10,000 in salaries; in addition we reduced the budget by \$50,000 this year;
- Structural analysis for the Natatorium received, we had a specific to address the leak in the basement and the engineering firm cannot determine the cause of the leak;
- Park and Recreation spent \$40,000 to have flow rider pad replaced this spring and the pad failed 3 weeks later. We have repaired it several times and the contractor has been notified that he needs to replace the entire pad when the pool closes this fall. The pad has a one year warranty and with the substantial damage we have had we are requesting a 2 year warranty on a new pad. Montana Elastomer's, a local company has doing the repairs to get us through the season. Staff feels that the coating used for the new pad was put on too thin.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patty

- Friday night Rock-n-the Wave at the Electric City Water Park;
- Camps are in their last week;
- Thanks to Charlie Bruckner for judging the Pet & Doll Parade for the second year.

Giles

- Roof issue at Boys & Girls Club. Community Development funds will be used to repair the roof. If not repaired we could have problems this winter with snow load.
- FAA building that park and recreation is responsible for is using a lot of electricity when nothing is plugged in, from \$400 to \$1200 monthly. We have put a new meter in and the only draw is from Qwest equipment for telephone service with the airport.
- Gibson Park lighting project is ready to start in the next week.
- Lions Park has been experiencing a lot of vandalism with over 40 sprinkler heads kicked off at a cost of over \$2000 to replace; Police report has been filed.

Todd

- Staff is trimming and removing trees; DED tree removal has been contracted out. Also have contracted out the removal of the ash trees that were damaged in 2009, also contracted out the replacement of those trees.

Board

- Concern with the cleanliness of the restrooms at Gibson Park; there needs to be a schedule to clean right before the Wednesday night concerts. Staff inspects the restrooms every day at 2:30 and stocks them at that time also, in addition we have left additional supplies with the Concession's at Gibson Park.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.