

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011
MINUTES**

Members Present: Bryan Thies, Charlie Bruckner, Karen Harant, James McCarvel, William Ramsey, Richard Kavulla

Members Absent: Russell Motschenbacher

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

Other's Present: Rachael Kaiser, Doug Wicks, Working Trails Committee, and Jennifer Reichelt, Deputy City Manager.

Board motioned to approve the minutes from May Park Board meeting as written. Motion seconded and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Flooding around town is impacting Westbank Park, Garden Home Park, and Broadwater Bay. Broadwater Bay is closed to boat traffic until water recedes. Snow melt is over 300% of normal and that water will be coming over the next 3 weeks.
- Due to the weather the Hurd Tennis Court project is delayed.
- Met with City Manager to present our preliminary budgets, not much feedback at this time.
- Commission meeting scheduled for June 21st to approve the following: Boy Scout lease for Wadsworth Park (Sun River Skeet Club area), Mansfield Center sound system and fireworks approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Playground Structures

Jaycee, Elk's Riverside and Skyline play structures have been scheduled for removal due to safety concerns. We have been looking for options to replace the structures at \$35,000 each.

Water Park/Flow Rider Update

Flow rider pad has been replaced and the pool is open for business.

Rachael Kaiser Mural Update

Rachael Kaiser was present and provided an update on her plan for the flowrider mural painting.

Rachael will be the administrator on the project along with her artistic abilities; she is receiving calls already from other street artists. She is looking to get as many people involved as possible. Proposal attached as part of the minutes.

The murals will have a concept prior to starting; they will be community oriented and well designed and have dynamic look.

Goal #1 to provide the Riverside Rail Yard Skate Park and Great Falls community with a visually pleasing artwork.

Goal #2 to provide a venue of creative expression for artists of all ages

Goal #3 to give young artists an opportunity to work with, and possibly be mentored, by other artists, professional and semi-professional.

Budget consists of:

- Project Director & Volunteer Coordinator: 3 month contract @ \$300/week (\$150/person)
- Artist Materials; Paint, spray paint, brushes, tape, sealer, primer, rollers, trays, etc. @ \$4500.
- Project to start July 6th with recruiting volunteers and call to finalize artists. Project to be completed in 3 months.

Concern on costs of visiting the project after it is completed – who will do that and what will it cost?

-life of the project would be a few years.

-suggestion that one bowl be done to begin with to see how it fares with current users.

Board motioned to support the mural painting project and support the Park and Recreation Staff to move forward on finding funding. Motion seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Skate Park

Giles Salyer, Jenn Reichelt, and Marty Basta met with Carol Bronson with Weed and Seed on funding to use for the skate park as follows: security camera system, enhanced lighting, signage, plus the cost of paint to cover up the graffiti in the park.

Skate Park Rules – Giles and Marty have meet with skaters and bikers to review the existing skate park rules and regulations – see attached changes. It is recommended that bikes be allowed in the skate park; the original ordinance will be rescinded and replaced with skate park rules and regulations. Will take to a Commission work session for direction.

Board motioned to accept the amended Skate park rules and regulations and recommend they take it to the Commission for their approval.

Wadsworth Lake Flooding

Flooding has continued at Wadsworth Lake, (valve that allows water to enter from the Sun River was broken) also it could be ground water that is bringing the level of the lake up. Boat launch and fishing dock will not be placed until the lake recedes. Wadsworth Lake will remain open for public use and recreational activities.

Rivers Edge Trail Damage

Doug Wicks presented the damage along the trail with asphalt and landslides, due to several areas where water is running off the road. (Photos attached). These areas were replaced in 2005 and are in need to be replaced again. The trail committee has not used a lot of maintenance money over the past years; we are now experiencing concerns for maintenance in several areas. There needs to be a fund set aside for just trail maintenance and Doug is looking for support from the Board. Currently there is \$5,000 budgeted yearly in Park Maintenance. Funding needs to come from other areas besides park and recreation; there are other businesses that also benefit from the trail.

There is a trails working group that reviews the long term maintenance: Members from FWP, MDT, Bike Club Public Works, and RTI. Discussion raised on who is actually responsible for the trail. In 2011 \$115,000 spent (Warden Park extensions and other smaller maintenance); there needs to be a bigger and different approach to find sources for funding.

To repair what is needed now is \$60,000-\$70,000.

Trails working group has applied for and received Federal and State grants for construction and some small repairs. A long term plan for capital and as well as maintenance needs to be initiated.

Board suggested that Public Works should be responsible for maintaining the trails since they take care of the streets. Park and Recreation does the mowing and snow removal and some weed control, take care of the restrooms (trails is the City's largest park). There are 16 events planned on the trail for the 2011 season; 3 years ago there was a count of over 100,000 users on the trails with 1 out of 7 being non-residents.

The City Government should step in and help the river's edge trail maintenance; this should also include the State and the County Government.

The City of Great Falls needs to support the on-going efforts for maintenance of the Rivers Edge Trail. Board motioned and seconded and approved.

Trails is working on a grant application in accordance with the downtown master plan to connect the trail to downtown, this would be two sections of new concrete (120' each); Recreational Trails is applying for a Grant for this project and would like a letter of support from the Park Board. Bryan Thies to write a letter from the Board in support of the trails and to be included in their grant request.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patty Rearden.

- Senior Olympics was held last week-end in Great Falls; athletics commented on our events as being the best run game they have ever participated in. Great Falls will host Senior Olympics again in 2012.
- Lion's Fun Fest to be held in July. Park and Recreation along with the Lion's Club of Great Falls partner together to put this event on. Lion's Club pays for all the expenses associated with the event.
- Summer camps are now over 1,100 participants at the Community Recreation Center.
- Youth Golf lessons are full and swimming lessons are doing very well.

Todd Seymanski

- Trimming trees; rented a chipper allowing the use of 3 chippers now; another crew raising trees in the Boulevard District; will start in parks when boulevards are trimmed up.

Giles Salyer

- Play structure removal
- Broadwater Bay parking lot project is completed and open for public use. The boat launch remains closed due to high water levels
- Flood concerns in Riverfront parks
- Mowing continues even in the rain.

Board: Jim McCarvel, also the coordinator for the Senior Olympics' tennis program informed the Board that he received favorable comments on the CMR courts, which were re-surfaced last year.

With no further business meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.