

**Park and Recreation  
Monday, April 11, 2011  
Minutes**

Members Present: Bryan Thies, William Ramsey, James McCarvel, Russell Motschenbacher, Richard Kavulla, Charlie Burckner  
Absent: Karen Harant

With correction to the Park Board meeting (Karen Harant present) Board motioned to approve; motion seconded and approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

Ice Breaker Road Race scheduled for Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Easter Egg Hunt; Fisher Radio who has been sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt for several years has canceled as the sponsor for this year. Staff is working to find a new sponsor, we are unsure if we will be able to finance the event this year if we do not find a sponsor.

Connie Cramer-Caouette attended a Marketing seminar and won \$1,000 in free advertising for TV. Connie knows someone from Oregon with a degree in Multi Media, he has offered to do a video for Park and Recreation. The video is scheduled to run on local stations April 19 – May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Park and Recreation Summer Guide came out in Saturday's tribune with registration for all activities starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to report

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Pea Pod Gardens*

Tracy Hronek, with Pea Pod Gardens. PEA Pod Gardens (People Environment Assets) is an organized board with residential members that was started 3 years ago when Tracy presented her idea for the 1<sup>st</sup> community garden. Tracy is looking at two additional sites in Great Falls, one by M&H Gas and one by Roosevelt School. Beds are \$25 which includes seeds and watering. Tracy is asking if they could enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Park and Recreation Department for use of their compost, woodchips and dirt for the gardens. Tracy has discussed this agreement with Todd Seymanski, City Forester and they are in agreement to allow the PEA Pod Gardens the use of these materials at no cost.

*Natatorium Structural Assessment*

Structural Analysis has been done on the Natatorium swimming pool, we are waiting on the completed report from Lacey Ebeling. Will bring back to the Park Board next month. This report will show underground water and core samples, addressing the structural and not the mechanical problems at the Natatorium.

### *Gibson Park Lighting*

Gibson Park Lighting bids are due April 20<sup>th</sup>; project to be completed in 120 days once notice is received. Project extends the entire back side of Gibson Park, lighting is similar to the what is in Eagles Crossing Park.

### *Flow Rider Pad*

Pacific Elastomers will be replacing a large portion of the flowrider pad at Electric City Water Park. We were forced to close the flowrider at the end of last season due to the condition of the pad. Work was scheduled to begin last September but due to several issues with the supplier and the company that is replacing the pad they are now scheduled to begin April 15<sup>th</sup>, with completion by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Pool is scheduled to open June 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent

- Vandalism at Civic Center and Gibson tunnels, including swastikas, graphic pictures and words, painted in black and white and yellow paint. Police are actively investigating the orange swastika, the Federal building also was tagged. We are quick to clean things up; the public has no idea of all the vandalism that is removed, they would be appalled. 40 hours are spent every week during the summer months removing tagging and repairs due to vandalism. Gibson Park has been hit hard over the past 2 weeks; turning power off, vandalizing restrooms; seems to be a trend right before school ends in the spring and right after school starts in the fall, with spring break now kids are out more.
- All the light poles at Centene Stadium have been re-welded, this will be a temporary fix. The new replacement light pole should arrive in the next few weeks. All the poles are concreted into the ground at least 10' deep and 5' around, during renovation of the stadium along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line they dug all the way down exposing the concrete to one of the poles. The welding structure was designed by TD&H as a repair sleeve only.
- Broadwater Bay parking lot; progress has begun this spring to complete the project within the next month.
- Snow fence has been removed now.
- This week is dedicated to Ice Breaker event by all staff.

Todd Seymanski, City Forester

- Starting landscape cleanup
- Trimming trees
- Getting things ready for the Ice Breaker.
- Earth Day – Arbor Day is Saturday during Ice Breaker registration.
- City of Great Falls has received the Tree City USA award again this year (30 years in a row).
- Austrian Pines are now being attacked by a bug, there is not much know about this bug.

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

- Senior Olympics scheduled for June 9-11, anyone ages 50 & older are welcome to participate. 13 events scheduled, with early registration ending May 23 and final May 27. Alive at 5:00 will kickoff the event the Thursday prior to the start.
- MusicFest sponsored by the Park and Recreation Foundation is scheduled for July 2 & 3. Event will feature music and children's activities; event is free to the public. Next meeting scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Park and Recreation Conference Room.

- Taylor/Park Island – we have been informed that there are people living on these islands; they have a large encampment set up; we contacted the police and they contacted homeland security and they flew over the island and filmed the area where they were camped. As soon as the race is done we will be going out with police and fire department to remove all the materials used to build their encampment. It was a hunter that saw the guy out there and his camp site and called us.

#### Board

Bryan Thies response from Greg Doyan on allowing bicycles in the Skatepark. Bryan has not received any response from Commissioners. City's Risk Manager looked at proposal and said it looked good.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 4:50pm