

**Park & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: James McCarvel, Karen Harant, Bryan Thies, Russell Motschenbacher, Richard Kavulla, Charlie Bruckner

Members Absent: Bill Ramsey

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

Others Present: Bob Alfred, Aaron Weissman, and Dave Dobbs.

With no changes or additions to the December Park Board meeting; motioned to approve as written. Motion seconded and carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Neighborhood Council 7 is scheduled to meet Monday night to discuss the Gibson Park lighting project. The lighting design is completed and funded. They also have funding for the 1st years energy costs.
- The snow removal on River's Edge Trail is requiring more staff time and they are not equipped to remove the snow under the new section below Central Avenue West Bridge. This section was build from a \$750,000 grant they received. Marty to discuss this concern at the next scheduled trails working group meeting, and how we can purchase the correct snow removal equipment. In addition he will discuss with the group what parts of the trail should the snow be removed from.
- \$10,000 in donations for the West Bank Park pavilion has been proposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Lions Parking Proposal

Board had requested the City Engineer update the Board on the parking lot request from Mr. Alfred at Lion's Park. Board reviewed a drawing showing the proposed parking areas along the Park.

Staff is not in favor of using park land for parking lots; they feel that if we do this it will set a precedent for others who border parks to do the same. The additional proposed parking would not be a huge benefit to the school's as previously stated by Mr. Alfred as they have programs only a couple of times a year in Lion's Park. There are 200 spots for street parking plus a parking lot.

The Board motioned to deny the request from Bob Alfred to lease a portion of Lions Park to build a parking lot. Motion seconded and carried.

West Bank Park Master plan Update

The West Bank Park Master plan will be presented to the City Commission during their work session on January 18, 2011.

Park Trust Request – Park Maintenance

The Park Maintenance department is requesting the use of Park Trust funds in the amount of \$12,000 to purchase a replacement tank that services the outdoor restrooms. The current tank is leaking and staff has acquired a 1 ton flat bed truck through Public Works to convert the tank from a pull trailer to the 1 ton truck; this will give staff better access to the restrooms also. Funding would come out of Park Trust unrestricted cash.

Board motioned to approve the use of Park Trust Unrestricted cash in the amount of \$12,000; motion seconded and approved.

Centene Light Pole

Staff has requested a structural analysis of all the poles at Centene Ballpark after one light pole fell down, the analysis cost is \$750. Clean up costs for removal of the light that fell has been estimated at \$20,000. Marty will meet with Vinnie Purpura, Manager of Centene Park to discuss what to do next and who will be responsible for the costs incurred so far. The light poles have been in place for 35 years and we may be faced with replacing all.

NEW BUSINESS

Aquatics Advisory Board Proposal

Aaron Weissman who has formed the "Citizen's For Saving Indoor Swimming Pools in Great Falls" has requested to formalize an Aquatic's Board to support the Natatorium and aquatics in Great Falls.

The Park and Recreation Board makes recommendations to the City Commission now, and suggested that if the group has items to discuss that they be placed on the Park & Recreation Board's agenda.

Marty has discussed the aquatic's programs with the City Manager, and Marty has recommended that we do not change aquatic fees until we know the costs to the repairs at the Natatorium. Marty will also direct staff to reduce costs throughout all pools. Marty informed the Board that the pools will open earlier in the spring and stay open longer in the fall; and that operating hours at the Natatorium will be reviewed for heavy utilization; adding that we cannot afford to keep the Natatorium open 7 days a week 14 hours a day.

Aaron inquired about the response from the City Commission and Mayor to his recent letter with recommendations on operations; Aaron would like the Board opinion also. Marty informed Aaron that he has not had any direction from the mayor or commission on the letter.

Board motioned to deny the request for a separate Advisory Board for the Citizens in Aquatic's; Park and Recreation Board will welcome any input from CSI and place any items for discussion on the Park Board agenda. Motion seconded and carried.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd Seymanski, City Forester.

- Christmas is over; going through lights and bulbs for next year.
- Tree care seminar at Westgate mall tonight from 6:30-8:30; seminar to cover all aspects on tree care.

Giles Salyer, Park Superintendent.

- Installed a drain system (grease pipe) in the Coca Cola café and upgrading the grease trap to prevent clogged drains.
- New door installed at the Coca Cola café.
- Demoing the upstairs area in the Community Recreation Center; this will allow them to do programming upstairs. Demo includes removing of some walls, electrical repairs and paint.
- Golf cart repairs will start when parts arrive

- Boys & Girls club applied and received a grant for new heating in the Westside Community Center building that they lease from Park and Recreation. Grant includes installation of 6 rooftop units. Bid opening is scheduled this week for the project.
- Snow removal continues

Other

Patty updated the board on the Electric City Winter Classic Basketball tournament that was held in Great Falls last week-end. There were 45 teams (6th, 7th, 8th grade boys & girls) that participated; games were held at 4 schools and the Community Recreation Center. Rebecca, CRC Supervisor organized the entire tournament.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.