

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021
Minutes

Members Present: June Sprout, Gary Arno, Jen Creed, Lonnie Hill, Lynn Oatman, Pat Carroll and Carol Bradley

Staff Present: Steve Herrig, Patty Rearden, Sarah Griffin and Lonnie Dalke

Guest: Jenn Rowell

Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Board motioned to approve December 14, 2020 minutes as written. Motion was seconded and carried, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Steve Herrig, Park and Recreation Director
 - Park District Updates
 - Jaycee Park project has been completed.
 - Still have site/dirt work at Elks and Gibson Park trails to complete. Project expected to be completed by spring 2021.
 - Continuing on planning and site design of new Oddfellows restroom. Project is expected to begin late spring early summer 2021.
 - Year Three Park District projects include (not limited to) Lions Park restroom replacement, Gibson pond wall repair, resurface walking trail in Grande Vista Park, irrigation, ADA sidewalks to playgrounds (in various parks), tree replacement, and sports courts resurface.
 - There are 15-16 parks that need ADA sidewalks to play/structures.
 - Park District will pay for areas that are outside the LMI districts. Which are eligible for CBDG grants.
 - Year Two Reallocation projects included a sidewalk from the trail to the fitness pad and basketball courts in Gibson Park, sidewalk to the playground at Grande Vista Park, guard hut and concession stand roof replacement at Electric City Water Park (additional projects include shelters in parks, Recreation Center roof, Multi Sports dugouts/backstop).
 - The irrigation upgrade project will go out for bid again. The initial bidding process generated one bid that was over budget with just one park. The irrigation project includes Roosevelt, Jaycee, and Valleyview Parks.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recreation Center Discussion
 - Due to a rise in construction costs related to soil/foundation issues, staff has been working to find a new location for the Aquatic and Recreation Center.
 - Staff and design team were aware from the beginning that the soil at the original site location (adjacent to Seibel Soccer Complex) would require additional work/cost to the foundation.

- Recent construction cost comparisons raised the estimated cost of the foundation. With the increase in cost, to stay within budget, the new facility would have to decrease in square footage.
 - Decreasing the size of the new facility would have a negative financial impact on operating the facility, therefore the adjacent Seibel Soccer Complex property is no longer an option.
 - Lions Park is the leading choice for the City and MAFB. The soil is good, the facility will fit well within the park and doesn't disrupt any current amenities within the park.
 - Lions Park is a 14-acre property, the new facility will utilize 4 acres (less than a third), which leaves plenty of green space, pavilion, restrooms, play structure, tennis court, and the potential of a new walking trail.
 - Still have to a break ground by September 2021.

Pat Carroll motioned the Park and Recreation Advisory Board support moving the location of the new Aquatic and Recreation Center to Lions Park, Lynn Oatman second and carried, 6-0. Carol Bradley abstained from the vote.

- Land Acquisition
 - Although the new Indoor Aquatic and Recreation Center will not be built on the property adjacent to Seibel Soccer Park, staff and the Great Falls School District would still like to move forward with the proposed land swap. (The GFPS District will swap a 10-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Seibel Soccer Park referred to as the Loy land, for City property that includes 6 parcels of Kranz Park).
 - The Great Falls Public School District would still like to build additional parking at Kranz park for Great Falls High School and Park and Recreation would like to have the additional park land on the east end of town.
 - The public hearing is set for January 19, 2021.
- Board Positions
 - June Sprout explained the roles and responsibilities of the Chairman position.
 - June Sprout called for Chairman nominations.

Pat Carroll motioned to appoint Lonnie Hill as Chairman of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Carol Bradley seconded the motion and carried, 6-0. Lonnie Hill abstained from the vote.

- June Sprout called for Vice Chairman nominations.

Pat Carroll motioned to appoint Jen Creed Vice Chairman of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Gary Arno seconded the motion and carried, 6-0. Jen Creed abstained from the vote.

- Visitor Center Lease
 - Staff continues to work with Great Falls Montana Tourism to finalize the terms of the lease agreement. Once the terms have been set, more information will be available.

- The Visitor Center Lease Agreement Public Hearing is set for February 2, 2021.

Pat Carroll motioned the Park and Recreation Advisory Board support staff working with Great Falls Montana Tourism in finalizing and approving the lease agreement of the Visitor Center, Lonnie Hill seconded the motion and carried, 7-0.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lonnie Dalke, Park Supervisor
 - Forestry
 - Forestry Crews
 - One crew is working on the tree trimming request list within the Boulevard District.
 - Another crew is removing dead Ash trees that were affected by an early freeze.
 - There was a total of 445 Ash trees that were affected, that are now being monitored by staff. 80 of those trees have been marked for removal.
 - The Parks crew completed the tree trimming in Pinski Park. They are now working on trees in Sight and Sound Park. These trees will potentially be affected by upcoming construction. When the crew is done in Sight and Sound, they will move to the 44th Street Island to trim trees.
 - Parks
 - Due to the dry winter, staff was able to sweep leaves and leaf pickup in parks.
 - Staff repaired damaged that was caused by wind to snow fences.
 - Repaired Garden Home Park sign.
 - Completed plumbing repairs at Hurd restroom and Broadwater Bay restrooms.
 - Irrigation maintenance work on quick couplers for sprinkler systems.
- Senate Bill 77
 - Steve Herrig asked the Board members to familiarize themselves with Senate Bill 77.
 - Pat Carroll asked what Bill 77 was for. Steve Herrig explained that that the bill addresses special districts, including a 10-year limit on special districts, and would only allow for inflationary increases. Steve stated he would share more information as he received it.
- Dog Park Memorial
 - Carol Bradley asked to be updated on the meetings being held with Dan Oakland.
 - Steve Herrig said that staff has had several conversations with Dan Oakland to discuss the different memorial ideas and projects that could be implemented at the Dog Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Next meeting is Monday, February 08, 2021