

CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

MINUTES

May 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

11:32 A.M., City-County Building room 426

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Peterson, John Carter, M. C. Beeby, Jane Kollmeyer, Adam Kaupisch, Melissa Lewis. Art Butler was excused.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Andy Hunthausen, County Commission

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Marr, Carrie Severson, Amy Teegarden, Debbie McLarnon, Carol Kirkland

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

A quorum was present.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

The April 10, 2013, minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT -

PRESENTATIONS - Amy gave a presentation on Mountain View Meadows subdivision where the developer is providing and developing parkland about the size of Lockey Park with several amenities. The developer would be giving the city about \$55,000 toward the purchase of playground equipment. Anything he does would have to meet city standards, and he will be asked to provide project phases. More project planning remains so she will keep the board informed. The developer is ready to start work on the park this season.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - STANDING ITEM: Park maintenance district update - Amy reported on a follow-up meeting with Jefferson County. They want to see what the consultants come up with as they have a concern with their county's financial condition. They also want the project to remain regional and not just for Helena. Amy reported the Montana City school superintendent also wants to be kept in the loop on this project.

ACTION ITEMS - Approve, table, deny a nunc pro tunc action authorizing additional funds to maintain the gazebo in Hooper Park. Carrie noted the item was actually a maintenance item rather than capital. Denny explained what kind of work would be done on the gazebo when the weather allows. The total cost for the work would be \$4200. **Adam moved and John seconded a motion to support the electronic approval of expending funds to paint the gazebo in Hooper Park. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Approve, table, deny geocache policy: Amy reported there are existing geocaching sites already in place in city parks and open lands. The Helena tourism group is interested in promoting geocaching for the area. This policy can be part of the parks plan. Amy did not receive any comments about the policy after the March meeting, and there is no need for it to go to the commission. **Adam moved and Jane seconded a motion to approve the geocaching policy. Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORTS

CITY - Amy reported on a meeting with the playable playground group and requested it be a standing item on the Parks Board agenda. The playground group will make a presentation at the June meeting on its vision for the playground and a formal proposal. There are differences between the city and the playground group about the definition of accessibility. There is ongoing discussion of the concerns with locating the playground at Centennial on top of a landfill; however, the playground group is open to considering other locations and continues fund raising. The first fire on open lands on Mount Ascension was human caused. Amy commented on the Montana Recreation and Parks Association bill she testified on that created a separate parks commission for state parks.

COUNTY - Carrie reported the county parks budget was sent on to the county commission. There is a new county application for developers. They need education on the trails and parks in the areas they are developing. She will attend the June meeting but then not for three months.

MAINTENANCE - Craig reported irrigation systems are getting turned on, and grass is being mowed. Picnic tables are painted and out, and the exercise trail at Centennial is nearly finished. The new softball fields are in use, and work with the engineer continues on the shelters and bid for the foundation. The new boiler is in at the pool and other repairs are being made. Weeds are starting to sprout, and seasonal hiring is in process. There was a good Arbor Day event at Hill Park with the governor and mayor attending and students from Hawthorne and Central schools and a program at the library. The arborists are working with Northwest Energy on tree removal and reimbursement for tree replacement. He and Debbie attended certified pool operator training and were certified. There will be mileage markers at Centennial.

RECREATION - Debbie reported on the numbers for Facebook likes for the different parks facilities. She is also working on

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scheduling fields, preparing brochures, attending recreation fairs, hiring staff, and purchasing scheduling software. The pool opens June 12, and the tennis and Kay's Kids programs start June 10 as does the RecConnect trolley.

LINCOLN - Dennis reported the Hooper Park irrigation project is ready to proceed. Softball starts May 12, and the ballfield lights are being upgraded. There was discussion about the Mike Horse mine offer of money for campground improvements at Hooper Park.

HOLMAC - Jane reported on proposed removal of some social trails. She suggested walking to the Beattie area to see the fuel reduction project. The dog park has 550 likes on Facebook, and there is a fund raiser at the Big Dipper Saturday.

FAIR BOARD - Andy noted the upcoming visioning group meeting May 17 for the future of the fairgrounds area. Amy suggested having the consultant attend also. Melissa will attend the upcoming Fair Board meeting. The fairgrounds are hosting a variety of upcoming events.

OTHER -

COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (BOARD MEMBERS) - add standing item of playable playground. Andy reported a millings project at fairgrounds parking lots. There will also be work done to delineate the Ryan Fields parking area and discussions about the buildings on the fairgrounds. John reported on the operation plan for school buildings for the future. The schools are not where the students are. The district will be looking to partner with other jurisdictions and be able to leverage money.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: June 5, 2013

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS: Remove brand discussion. Add playground update just for June and then see if standing item

ADJOURN - 12:58 P.M.

Carol Kirkland
Recorder