

Park Board Meeting Minutes October 9, 2018

Park Board Members Present: Jim DeHerrera, Terri Dunn, Ray Boksich, Susan Schnee and Frank Sweeney

Park Board Members Absent: Eric Matson

Guest:

City Staff Present: Maria Butts and Mary Blubaugh

A. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

B. Approval of the October 9, 2018 Agenda- Member Sweeney moved to approve the Agenda. Vice President DeHerrera seconds. A vote was taken with all ayes. The Agenda is approved.

C. Approval of the August 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – The date typed on the minutes is August 7th instead of August 14th. Member Sweeney moves to approve the minutes with the correction. Vice President DeHerrera seconds. A vote was taken with all ayes. The Minutes are approved with a correction.

D. Public Comments –

E. Committee Reports

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee – Vice President DeHerrera said all the projects are moving forward. There are no significant changes.

b. Tree Advisory Committee – The committee walked to Somers to discuss the replacement trees needed for this project. Director Butts informed the Park Board there is a large Cottonwood tree in Baker Park that was recently assessed for health. The report showed the top section of the tree is rotten inside. For the safety of the public it needs to come down. Notices of its removal will be posted as it is a prominent tree.

c. WSFF Board – President Brunk reported the meeting will be tomorrow. He and Member Sweeney will decide who will remain on the WSFF Committee. Director Butts talked with Scott Kelly regarding the facility. Mr. Kelly told Maria there are plans for changes to the facility. The WSFF Board knows all plans must be presented to the Park Board before work starts. One project being proposed is to put back the office in the vestibule. This had been removed because it was a safety hazard as it was an impediment to the exit. The City's Building Inspector has informed the WSFF Board this plan will not be approved. Maria also told the Park Board we have been looking for a contractor to work on the roof. This is proving difficult. Greg Harms gave Director Butts a quote to work on the roof, but he is not licensed or insured.

d. WAG Board – Member Boksich reported enough money was raised to start their project. Director Butts asked if the WAG Board could consider fundraising effort go toward maintenance of the park, as opposed to capital. The largest irrigation bill the Parks and Recreation Department has is for the Dog Park. Irrigation and the City's water needs need to be watched. Water conservation is important.

F. Presentations – Woodland Parking Project Landscaping Plan – Chris Barnes from Bruce Boody's office will be presenting the Landscaping Plan to the Park Board. Before Chris' presentation, Director Butts gave a brief history of the project. Maria also told the Board, due to the need for more water conservation, she searched for a more sustainable, drought-resistant option for the landscaping. Mr. Barnes will be presenting a design that meets these standards. This property is not dedicated parkland, so the final approval will come from City Council.

Artificial turf has also been discussed to use in the small green space area of this project. Chris Barnes went over the Landscaping Plan. The plan calls for drought tolerant grass mix of Sheep, Hard & Red Fescue. These grasses are slow growing. There is no irrigation system in this plan. All shrubs and trees can be watered with hoses in the first year while they are getting established.

The use of yarrow for the green space was initially discussed for the plan, but there is some concern with that plant. Member Dunn asked what the concern is for using yarrow. Chris said it is an aggressive plant. It is not often used as a turf grass. Member Sweeney has not had good experience with it either. Vice President DeHerrera said he would prefer not to use it.

Member Sweeney has concern with artificial turf. At some point you have to replace it. Vice President DeHerrera asked if there are different kinds of artificial turf. This area would not have as much foot traffic as a sports field. Chris Barnes did not have that information, but Director Butts said she has been researching this turf and it would not be a sports turf. Forever Lawn is used now at Fort Missoula. Maria has a call in to them to see how it is working. She does know there are newer products specifically for lawn use.

Member Dunn asked Director Butts, as she collects information, to give the Park Board a report on the long-term cost to maintain an artificial lawn vs grass.

President Brunk asked the size of this potential turf area. Chris Barnes said there are several small areas, but the large lawn area is approximately 3,102 square feet. Ron wondered if we may want to go with a less contentious alternative of the drought resistant grass vs. artificial. Member Dunn said maybe we need to start educating the community on this alternative.

Member Sweeney made a recommendation to move forward with Plan A with the bid alternate of artificial turf and take yarrow out of the plan.

Member Dunn seconds. A vote was taken with all ayes.

G. Public Hearings - None

H. Old Business – None

I. New Business – Consideration to request parkland dedication on Colorado Ave. subdivision – Director Butts reported there is a proposed subdivision on 817 Colorado Ave. This consideration is for cash in lieu vs parkland dedication. Access to this parcel would be a challenge. Contiguous connection of all parkland could not be achieved. After a brief discussion the Park Board came to the decision they would prefer the cash in lieu.

J. Other Items – November Work Session for Depot Park Master Plan – Director Butts told the Park Board final designs are in the works. Ryan Mitchell could go over the various plans in a work session. Member Boksich told Director Butts looking at the toll the park took after Oktoberfest scares him. Maria said this is the last year things will be done this way. It will be the last year for any staking or driving on the park. It is a balancing act between what the organizers want to do in the park vs. what the park can take and still maintain the quality. President Brunk asked if Director Butts could provide some historical information regarding the Depot Park Master Plan prior to the session.

It was decided the work session would be at 5:30 p.m. on November 13th.

K. Items from Parks and Recreation Department

a. Administrative Report – Director Butts included the landscape plan for the Central Ave. median from 3rd to 5th. The design features different “ecosystems” of native plants. This is a street project with Parks and Recreation input. Maria told the Park Board Liz Records is our new Recreation Coordinator. President Brunk mentioned he heard the Parks and Recreation Department has some new equipment. Director Butts verified City Council was able to provide the department with the monies needed to purchase a new bucket truck. This is much needed for our Urban Forestry work and will make a huge difference on the work the Urban Forestry staff will be able to do.

b. Recreation Coordinator – The After School program is seeing it's highest attendance in the program's history. Flag Football wrapped up on October 3rd. There were almost 70 1st-4th grade boys and girls registered.

c. Parks Maintenance – The City Beach buoys were removed. Twenty-two Adopt-A-Trees were planted. Pruning continued in Zone 1.

d. Community Services Coordinator Report – Launches at City Beach and State Park were locked on October 1st. Wayfinding signs for the shared use paths should be designed and ready for print late winter with installation in the spring and early summer.

L. Correspondence – Director Butts informed the Park Board she had received an email from the Mayor of which he wanted forwarded to the Board. A gentleman had emailed the Mayor upset at the appearance of the back area of Memorial Park behind the baseball stadium. He wanted the Parks and Recreation Department to make improving that area a priority. Director Butts told the Mayor improvements for that section are budgeted for FY21. Maria also asked the Mayor to let this gentleman know this upgrade is not a quick fix but requires installing an irrigation system, adding new top soil and then grass seed. The Park Board restated the need to stick to the established priority list.

M. Items from Park Board:

Jim DeHerrera – None

Susan Schnee – What is the prognosis on dogs at Farmer’s Market? Director Butts informed the Park Board she had information on the child bit at the Farmer’s Market. The child was running back to his mother when the dog bit his leg and lunged at another child. The dog’s owner and the dog took off so there was no way to know if the dog was current on its shots. The child had to undergo a series of rabies shots. The Park Board decided this was a matter that requires further discussion.

Ray Boksich – looking to the future of the Dog Park, is there a possibility of expanding to the South? Are there plans for that area? Director Butts said that area was marked for gazebos in the old Armory Park Master Plan. A playground is also needed in the park. Maria recommends going through a new Master Plan process to see all the competing interests.

Frank Sweeney - None

Terri Dunn – None

Ron Brunk - None

N. Adjourn: Member Dunn made a motion to adjourn. Member Sweeney seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.