

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 7, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Members Present: Carol Berg, Jen Frazer, Maggie Johnston-Roatch, Kelly Huffield

Others Present: Joy Short, Pattie Berg (City Liaison)

Tour of Short Parkland Donation with Joy Short

Joy Short gave the Committee the background on how she and Spike enjoyed this land as children and during their teenage years, and why the family wants to donate the property to the City. It being too muddy to walk the property, she showed the Committee the (rough) boundaries of the donation.

During and following the tour, the following observations were made:

- This is going to be a great addition to the City's parks system
- The City will need a plan to develop the park, including but not limited to picking up the litter, where parking will be located, how to create an accessible path, and fencing requirements (Joy suggested jack leg fencing) and possibly having to clean out some shrubs to improve access to the River.
- When the muddy season is over, the Committee needs to revisit this site and see if the donation will provide access to the River. If not, Mrs. Short said the family would be willing to donate 'another piece' to provide this access.
- Since this is a wetland, DEQ is likely to be involved in any parks development. Otto Ohlson may be available to assist the City with this work.
- Fundraising opportunities may exist within Fish Wildlife and Parks and other federal/state agencies. Ducks Unlimited may also have an interest in providing some funding. See https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/zoomontana-announces-new-wild-waterfowl-sanctuary/article_07439c6d-c4e8-596b-a49f-343d23d14178.html
- Some owners of property adjacent to Wright Street need to remove their personal property from the City's right away. It would be good to give them a heads up so they have time to prepare.
- The person remodeling Wheeler's place across from Short Park. Has the City approved this?

Recess to Yoked Parish Meeting Room

The meeting was called back to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Committee members and City liaison as listed above.

Others Present: Mark McDanel, Angelia McDaniel.

Presentation by Skateboard Users Group

At the direction of the City Council, the parks advisory committee has been considering developing a skateboard park. In support of this effort, a user's group has formed and will be spearheading this effort. The skate park would cater to 'tweeners', who have limited access to recreation programs. Angelia McDanel of the users group gave the Parks Advisory Committee an update on the progress of this project.

A board has been seated for this project and include Elizabeth Brewer, Sarah Hamlin, Bob Sager, Nancy Schlepp and Wes Stidham. The first board meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2021.

Angelia has looked into sources of information and funds for a skate park:

- Chad, with the Pearl Jam organization, told her that White Sulphur’s park would probably have a small foot print. Pearl Jam funding requires a dollar for dollar match.
- The Montana Skate Park Association assists communities with guidance and consultation on skate park design, construction and project administration.

The Board’s IRS status was briefly discussed, as was the difficulty in setting up and running a non-profit. Kelly Huffield advised the McDanel’s that the Meagher County Community Foundation can funnel funds raised for this project through its nonprofit status. Jen Frazer said the Lion’s Club would also be available for this.

Ms. Huffield said that this year’s “Race for this Place” is dedicated for school playground equipment, but a skate park would likely be eligible for Race funds.

Angelia asked that the City consider setting aside a piece of property for the park. To avoid conflicts with traffic, noise, and potential issues with human trafficking, the Skate Park Association recommends against setting these close to major highways and residential areas.

The Committee explained that it is going to be putting together a parks master plan, and intends to include a skate park in this plan. The Committee encouraged Angelia to continue her work, and to come back to the Committee with further information and needs.

Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2021 Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Meeting were unanimously approved as written on a motion made by Jen Frazer and seconded by Carol Berg.

Public Comment

None

Committee Member Reports: Updates on Assignments from Minutes and Master List

Carol Berg

- Is meeting this week with the Mayor and a company that levels concrete surfaces to look at the tennis court. Another option would be Jason Corbin, who was referred by Lorne Koch from Bozeman.
- She will ask the Mayor to include in the next years’ budget some money for *Adopt a Spots* signs and a Court Rules sign. She will also discuss ground covering costs, cost for steps, and anything the Committee may not have thought about.
- Jason Phillips has not found the 2003 Master Plan for Springs Park. Marc McDanel said he has some paperwork about planning that was done several years ago. He will find and share this paperwork with Carol Berg.

Jen Frazer:

- Has heard nothing on the Bair Grant application.
- Arbor Day will be observed on 5/17/2021. School kids will plant trees at Springs Park.
- City employees need training on how to avoid killing the trees.
- She has not had time to research security options.

Kelly Huffield:

- The Street light is not up yet.
- The Senior Class will be on 18" x 36" banners on the street lights downtown. The Senior Class' parents put the holders up.

Maggie Johnston-Roatch

- Has not been able to confirm that Sheriff Lopp has been made aware of the parks vandalism issues.

Pattie Berg, City Liaison Report

- The Mayor said the City will install Engineered Wood Fiber in the fall zones at Bair Park. Mark Pryor will be in charge of this project. The Mayor suggested against officially designating Springs Park as the accessible park. There was a discussion about whether or not this designation removes the City's liability to make Bair Park accessible.
- The BMX Park will be burned as soon as possible.
- Recently, the City Council asked that the Committee add basketball to the tennis court project. Full Court Athletics told her it would cost about \$2,100 to purchase 2 basketball posts/nets. This would also involve installing basketball posts in concrete at the end of the court. She is concerned about someone running backwards to return a ball, falling over the basketball post, and getting injured. Full Court said there is usually about 21' from the service line to the back of a court. Pattie will measure this distance at both ends of McStravick Court.
- The adjustable nets for the tennis court will be \$1906.88 plus about \$390.00 for shipping. It was mentioned that if we find out where they are being shipped from, someone from WSS might pick them up and save the shipping costs. Pattie also sent an email to USTA asking about an equipment grant, hoping it would pay for the net.
- Clean Up Day will be May 1st. She thought this may be a good day to do a parks fundraiser.
- The Mayor has said that, lacking other funding, work on Short Park will be delayed until @ Summer of 2023.
- Full Court Athletics will not be available to oversee the installation of the tennis surface. She sent an email to the Bozeman Parks Superintendent if White Sulphur could borrow the employee who oversaw the court removal to supervise the installation here. If that doesn't work, the Tennis Coach at Skyview in Billings offered to consult as needed.

Work Session

Possible Fundraiser on Clean Up Day - A trash for trees function was suggested.

Other:

- It was mentioned that the school may have already purchased new playground equipment. Kelly Huffield will speak with the school about this.

- A discussion was also held about how an *Adopt a Spot* program might be simply administered, so you know who is responsible for which spots, what spots are available, and what to do if the spot doesn't get maintained. Maggie Johnston-Roatch will speak with City Hall.

Parks Master Plan:

It being about 7:40 p.m., this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2021.

Adjourn

On a motion made by Maggie Johnston-Roatch, seconded by Kelly Huffield, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.