

**CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 20, 2020**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Pattie Berg:**

- Finalize Bylaws for signature at next meeting
- Send out Draft Minutes as soon as they are done.
- Email the Agenda and the materials to Committee Members when they are ready.
- Send Mayor Nelson Committee Members contact info.

**All Members:**

- Send Agenda Item requests to Carol Berg ([glunlimited@itstriangle.com](mailto:glunlimited@itstriangle.com)) by 8/18/20
- See assignments on Parks Advisory Mater List dated 8/10/20.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Carol Berg called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Present: Carol Berg, Robert Dupea, Jennifer Frazer, Kelly Huffield

Also present: Mayor Rick Nelson, Connie Ellsworth (Parks) Pattie Berg (City Liaison to the Parks Advisory Committee.)

**City Report**

This item was moved up so the Mayor and Ms. Ellsworth could go about their lives.

**Mayor Nelson** provided the following information:

- A mailer describing Game Time grants. These are matching grants. The deadline for applications is 10/31/20.
- There is a possibility that a private individual may be interested in donating some raw ground to the City, with the restriction that it can't be "developed". The Mayor will see if the property line would allow access to the Smith River.
- There is a lot of vandalism in the parks, especially Springs Park. Recently, the sprinkler clocks were shut off, and the crew has had to shovel out the women's toilet twice because it was filled with garbage. Mr. Dupea mentioned the Rotary Shell had also been vandalized in the past. The Mayor provided cost information for security cameras.
- Answers to questions submitted by P. Berg on behalf of the Committee:
  1. The swing set frame is OK, but the toddler seat needs replaced and the other seats are starting to deteriorate. The links in the chain are opening, creating a pinch hazard, so the chains need replaced
  2. The slide is hot, and if someone isn't supervised, they could fall off the top.
  3. Teeter totter – One of the boards isn't latched down. The seat needs removed, or the latch needs replaced.
  4. There is no official location for the next Fire Station. If one is built, it would likely be in the area of the horseshoe pits. It's possible to move the pits to near Baker Street. There is also a possibility that the City and County could form a joint fire department and, build a joint station that may or may not be on City property. Currently the City has no other property on which to place a station.
  5. No City employee is licensed to apply restricted pesticides, herbicides or insecticides.
  6. No City employee is a certified playground inspector

7. The Mayor thought there may have been some kind of Master Plan made as far back as '86. He will do some digging. It was also suggested that the Meagher County News archives may have a copy of the plan for Springs Park that was developed by the landscape architect in the '90's.
8. The City owns its porta potties. Stidhams have been pumping them, at no charge to the City. The Baseball group also rents 2 from Stidhams for the fields.
9. In regard to the ground surface under the playground equipment:
  - The Mayor recommended 'lifting' Springs Park – It gets wet with lots of precipitation. Rather than bringing in 9" – 12" of pea gravel, he suggested moving the current gravel back and putting in road "tailings" to raise the surface. Then the City could put in the proper ground surface.
  - Pea Gravel is \$15.85 a ton. 1 yard is about 2,500 pounds, so 4 yards would be about \$80.00. Using the City's equipment, the cost would be about \$200 a load and a load would cover a 10x10 area 3" deep.
  - During later discussion, the Committee wondered if it would be possible to separate the 'high fall heights' areas and 'low fall height' areas. The Committee thought the cost to do proper ground covering may be reduced by doing this.
10. The City doesn't have a strong desire regarding the contact person s for the US Tennis Association. He recommended it be a member of the Parks Committee.

**Connie Ellsworth**

The Committee was not able to visit with Ms. Ellsworth when it did its parks tour. The Committee wanted her thoughts on the best way (if any) to border a playground (to keep ground cover off the grass), and her feedback on the parks, in general.

- She didn't express a strong desire one way or the other for bordering the play areas. She did say any border would need to be low enough to mow around, or it means weed eating.
- She said additional playground equipment would be wonderful, in both Springs and Bair Park. Bair needs something for younger children and Springs Park needs something for older children.
- When asked about her thoughts for the undeveloped part of City property east of Bair Park, She said this are 'is a joke'. She said it has been mowed both of the last 2 years, but there is a lot of garbage, rocks, etc., on the property and she is afraid mowing will damage the mower.
- There was a discussion about creating a walking path from the City's property on Wall Street in front of the senior housing into Bair Park and continuing to the fence line. When asked, the Mayor was told it would be a 'nature trail'.
- Ms. Ellsworth did not recommend a dog park. She also mentioned that, despite signage, Spa guests are using Radar Park as their dog park. The Mayor was going to research the cost of installing pet stations. Maybe the City can speak with Mr. Gudmundson about this when it speaks about the porta potty location. (See Master List.)

<b>Approval of Minutes.</b>
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Upon a motion made by Kelly Huffield and seconded by Jen Frazer, the July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved on a unanimous vote

Upon a motion made by Kelly Huffield and seconded by Carol Berg, the July 28, 2020 Parks Tour Notes were approved on a unanimous vote

<b>Additional Committee Discussion Requests</b>
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P. Berg said she had asked Kelly Huffield and Jen Frazer to find out if either the Community Foundation or Lion's Club could accept donations for fundraisers for City parks. Ms. Frazer said the Lion's Club doesn't have the

capacity at this time to take on this. The Foundation is meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Huffield will speak with them about this and report back at the next meeting.

**Rotary Representative: Rotary's Goals/Interests/Objectives**

Mr. Dupea said Rotary asked him to represent it on this Committee. He said that, in the past, Rotary has both financed, and provided labor and materials, for parks projects. He noted it had built the Shelter at Springs Park. Mr. Dupea said that, with the 2020 Red Ants Pants Festival being cancelled, the Rotary Club lost its main fundraising activity.

Mr. Dupea suggested that the Committee contact places like Lowes and Home Depot and ask for donations for materials. When asked if Rotary was contemplating a gazebo at Bair Park (this was believed to be the case in the 1990's), he said would take this question to the Rotary Club.

Mr. Dupea cannot meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, or on the second Monday, of any month.

**Review/Adopt By-Laws**

The Draft Bylaws were unanimously adopted on a motion made by Robert Dupea and seconded by Jen Frazer.

**Planning Session (see Parks Advisory Committee Master List):**

P. Berg had prepared a Master List of projects/ideas/goals that had been identified during the July 20, 2020 Meeting and the July 28, 2020 Parks Tour. The Committee went through this list and identified:

- Fatal Flaws – Those items which must be fixed immediately;
- To Do's – Those project the Committee would like to get accomplished in the next 12 months.
- "Wish Lists" - Those projects the Committee would like to see happen sometime.
- "Other" – Those projects that the Committee is not likely to devote time to.

The Committee generally agreed to pursue the "FATAL FLAWS" and make rehabbing the Tennis Court a first priority. That does not preclude 'checking off' some of the smaller items.

**Set Next Meeting Date/Time/Location**

August 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Rotary Shelter. This meeting will focus on the Tennis Court rehabilitation.

**Adjourn**

On a motion made by Carol Berg and seconded by Robert Dupea, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.