

April 7, 2022

Laurel Park Board Meeting

Started 5:33 PM by Scot Stokes with Irv Wilke, Rick Herr, Jon Rutt, Evan Bruce, Matt Wheeler, Kirk Markegard, Mayor Dave Waggoner and Paul Kober.

Public Comment:

Mary and Elizabeth from the LARC came to volunteer LARC to facilitate opening the Laurel Pool this year.

Approved minutes from February 3, 2022, meeting, Irv motioned and Rick 2nd. Motion passed
No minutes from March 3, 2022, meeting, because of a lack of quorum.

New Business:

Andrea Johnson from the Montana Tennis Association and the USTA spoke on building tennis courts and possible pickle ball courts in Laurel. Several locations suggested along with working with the schools and Pickle Ball group on raising funds when a location is found. Motion made by Irv, 2nd by Jon to investigate the feasibility of this being done in Laurel. Motion passed.

Kirk and the Mayor made a presentation on building a Bike Park and Skate Park similar to the one in Billings called Blue Creek Bike Park. Proposed location is an unused park area north of the Fir Field soccer park. Very doable project with low cost and the skate park people have already raised \$6,000 towards the building of a skate park. Grants and fundraising can be kicked into gear with a location. Motion made by Evan, 2nd by Irv to study the feasibility of accomplishing this project as soon as possible. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Riverside Park Updates. A lot of work has been done to clean up the park and some landscaping needs to be completed to be ready for summer. Discussion on the addition of another vault toilet, rebuilding the shower building and fixing some septic tank systems. Perc tests are being run by Riverstone for feasibility. Motion made by Irv to pursue money from the Exxon penalty to complete some of these projects, Paul 2nd. Motion passed.

The Little League and the American Legion want to enter into a long term 25 year lease to secure stability in their investment in the fields. Motion made by Irv to draft a lease with regular increases that would be agreeable along with reports from the organizations on their investment and improvements. Paul 2nd. Motion passed.

Richard Klose, Ken Olson, and George Waddell spoke on behalf of the American Legion post adopting/championing the building in Riverside Park. Discussion followed about ways to incentivize the organization through reduced or waived rent of a long-term lease after proof of investment in improving the functionality of the building. Some problems need to be addressed with the septic and utilities before an agreement can be made.

Other Items:

Matt presented the need for replacement of the soccer nets in Murray Park. Jon made a motion to approve this purchase, Irv 2nd and motion passed.

Lions Club is using the former Jaycee Hall and would like to consider adopting/championing the building and would we consider renaming Lions Hall?

We agreed to meet on May 5, 2022, for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03

Jon Rutt