

Minutes for Park Board, March 7, 2019

Attendance: Scot Stokes (Chair), Phyllis Bromgard, Evan Bruce, Irv Wilke, Richard Herr, Matt Wheeler, and Jon Rutt
Historical Society showed up with: board member Blain Fandrich, Western Heritage Center Director (Kevin Kooistra), and Billings Historic Preservation Office (Lora Mattox)

Public Input:

Jaycee Hall representative Haward brought up that vehicles have been getting stuck around the Jaycee Hall and that requested that the city plows around the Jaycee Hall. Matt stated as the city worker, city has already plowed around the building. Irv stated he saw it plowed.

General Items:

Minutes were approved without comments and unanimously by the board

New Business:

Evan was voted in as Secretary of the Park Board. Irv Wilky nominated with Richard Herr seconded. Everyone voted in favor.

Irv Wilky was voted in as Second Chair. Richard Seconded. Everyone voted in favor.

Riverside Park Clean-Up Ideas:

Weather and floodplain questions were holding up placing the new toilet for Riverside Park. City County planning board was brought up that new flood plain regulation might put on the new toilet. They had to do with Wildlife Endangerment Studies but no-one at the meeting has verified info on the new regulations.

Park Updates:

The city did install outdoor lights at Jaycee Hall for public safety. This was brought up in the last meeting and Kurt Markegard announced that they were up and Irv Wilky states that he noticed them when he was down there.

Other Items:

Lorra Mettrix talked about nominations and process to see if Laurel would be interested in having Riverside Park put on the Historic Registry (NRHP). The Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board would help the city in it and apply while providing past research and answering questions.

It was stated that even after registering, the buildings can still be torn down only if no federal fund goes to the building.

The Historic Board representatives say that the park would easily qualify to be on the historic registry. Being on a historic registry would open up potential money that might not be available otherwise. There are specific funds for MT that would open up.

They were also glad to see good community involvement behind the park, Jaycee, lions. That could be money for demolishing or mold removal.

The representative Blain Fandrich went on the history of the park and states a few unknown facts about what happened in the park and what it was used for. That history can be found in the research that the Western Heritage Center did at request from the Preservation Board. It was stated that some of the log cabins that were built in the park have already moved away from the park, including the current chamber of commerce building. Some of the other log cabins current locations are unknown.

They went on to state that history would draw in tourism and community support. That fact helps make tiff and tourism grants a possibility. National trusts are also possible.

There won't be cost to get listed.

The Western Heritage Center provided Evan Bruce the binder of historical research to be scanned and digitally sent to the other members. (Evan will also add in the missing Laurel Outlook articles that were listed in the binder and added to the pdf to be sent out).

Potential support from the state level, the state chamber of commerce was also possible.

Irv asked about the master plan approved by the city and how this could funnel grants into that and Lorra stated that it would be possible.

It was then stated some optional fund with no matching fund requirement was out there based on that the park in on the highway.

To finalize that representative state that this all opens up possibilities.

Scott Stokes stated that this will be put on the agenda to make a recommendation to the city council to move forward with Riverside Park and its placement on the Historic Registry.

April 4th Next Meet

Evan asks about an update on the newPark Use Permits. Kurt and Scott stated that the weather has postponed them walking around the park and figuring out the layout of the park and how it will be stated on the permits. Irv said Kurt and Scott Stokes could walk around with him.
park use permit

The old park info to be stored in the conference room for Evan, the new secretary.

Philis Bromgard updated the board on the lion's park. Trees have been ordered and railing is going up. evergreen trees. The pathway was not funded yet. The oil spill money will be covering the cost of the handicap dock this year.

Irv asked about the January meeting minutes but Scott stated that no meeting happened.

Meeting was adjourned.