



City of Sidney, MT
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting 11-5-2025
November 05, 2025 5:30 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 713 080 5898 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

Alderman Present: Christensen, Rasmussen, and Larson.

Others Present: Mayor Norby, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer, Parks Superintendent Ridl, Melissa Boyer (Foundation for Community Care), Jen Doty, Bob Burnison, and Mike Weber (Sidney Health Center), James Falcon (Sidney Herald), Meagan Dotson (The Roundup), Madison Kapp, Janet Sargent, Jeri Chapman, Laurie Schlothauer, Rene France, Brian Harper, Kathleen Harris, Dirk Schlothauer, Sean Kavanaugh, Stasia Creek, Nate Creek, Dean Lang, Jenna Durham, Justin Boyer, Joe Kauffman, Scott Johnson, Marie Logan, Kelly Logan, Enid Huotari, Diane Ford, Viviana Larson, David Seitz, Greg Anderson, and Debbe Anderson. Via Zoom: Jayne Miller.

1. New Business

a. Swim Team Dock

No Swim Team members in attendance so nothing was discussed.

b. Johnson Park Parking Lot

Motion was made to recommend not moving forward with parking in Johnson Park.

Motion made by Larson, Seconded by Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Christensen, Rasmussen, Larson

Alderwoman Christensen thanked the public for their input and opened the microphone for discussion.

Dean Lang presented a written diagram of a possible parking solution for Sidney Health Center utilizing the existing parking lot on the south side of the Professional Building and adding parking to the east side of the building on 14th street that is currently lawn space. Mr. Lang further demonstrated that additional parking spaces could be gained in the alley where the current solid waste cans are located. The diagram presented up to 35 usable parking spaces.

Nate Creek has lived in the neighborhood for 19 years and uses the park often. His general question is who the parking lot is for, Sidney Health Center or the City of Sidney for park users. Mr. Creek stated that he drove through Sidney Health Center's south parking lot during business hours today. There were 18 open spots at that time. Mr. Creek stated that those open spots combined with the available parking at the Professional Building should be adequate parking for hospital staff and visitors without making any changes to Johnson Park.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin read into record a letter Laurie Schlothauer prepared for the meeting. The letter is available on the meeting agenda packet.

Bob Burninson (Director at Sidney Health Center) stated that the City of Sidney came to Sidney Health Center to discuss an exchange. Alderwoman Christensen stated that she does not agree with that statement. A discussion was had in August and unfortunately social media let this get out of hand. Alderwoman Christensen further stated that the meeting minutes and recording are available on the City of Sidney's website and if there are further questions from the public, they can call City Hall.

Melissa Boyer (Director at Foundation for Community Care) stated it is unfortunate that Sidney Health Center has become the villain in this story when they were just trying to work with the city to create a better and more useful space for everyone, park access for the community and parking for the hospital and neighborhood. Park Superintendent Ridl stated that the City of Sidney has discussed parking issues for all of its parks and becoming ADA compliant. Specifically, Johnson Park has old curbing for off street parking on 14th Street from when the old tennis courts were there that could be refurbished. Mrs. Boyer stated that the proposed 118 parking spots from the August Park and Recreation Committee meeting was a jumping off point to demonstrate how the park could have been structured into as many parking spots as possible. She further stated Sidney Health Center and the Foundation for Community Care have a great relationship with the City of Sidney and Richland County and we would all like to see that relationship continue.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin agreed the Foundation for Community Care and Sidney Health Center are great community partners. She further stated land that is donated to the city for parks is given in trust that the city will take care of the land in the way the community wants, not city property but community property.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.