



City of Sidney, MT
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting 8-4-25
August 04, 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 (via phone)

Others Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer, Parks Superintendent Ridl, Melissa Boyer (Foundation for Community Care), Jen Doty and Bill Evanson (Sidney Health Center), Janet Sergeant, Jenna Durham, Chris Larsen, Sean & Chris Dodds, Stasia Creek, Dean Lang, Sarah Petrik, Mike Petrik, Diane Ford, Jayme Miller, and Gary Miller.

1. New Business

a. Johnson Park-SHC Request for parking spots

Sidney Health Center and the Foundation for Community Care came before the Park and Recreation Committee to start the conversation pertaining to converting part of Johnson Park into a parking lot.

Key points made by Sidney Health Center included this project would a joint effort to create opportunities for the hospital, the City for pickleball courts and Richland County for overflow parking at the fair. The plans provided to review tonight were not solicited by Sidney Health Center or paid for, rather they were plans already available from previous projects being used to start the conversation. This proposal is in the early stages and has not been approved by the SHC Board to move forward with. They also presented a cost estimate of approximately \$630,000 to do the construction of the parking lot that they are proposing would be shared with the City. The cost is high enough that SHC may have to phase the project.

Key points made by residents living in the area or who would be affected by the conversion included better options for parking in that area that does not need to go into the park, the park is highly utilized not only for the equipment but also for the green space for soccer, flag football and volleyball tournaments. This change could affect home values in the area and will affect sell-ability as the view changes from a park to the parking lot. SHC has parking available on their own property by either reconfiguring the existing parking to create more spots or using the green space to the north. The residents also brought up the feasibility of the parking lot being used by

employees or patients who already do not want to walk the distance from existing parking lots and choose to park on the streets. Safety for children using the playground equipment next to a parking lot and brighter lighting affecting the homes was also brought up.

SHC stated they have looked at the green space north of the hospital but Interstate Engineering stated it is not feasible due to drainage issues that would also affect neighboring residences. They further stated Interstate Engineering looked at reconfiguring their existing parking but they would only gain 1-2 spots, but with the OB remodel they will be gaining 5 spots. SHC stated the only way to force employees or patients to use the parking lots instead of the streets would be to make street parking illegal. Also brought up as an issue was the snow plows removing snow in the middle of the night being a nuisance to surrounding properties.

Parks Superintendent Ridl stated as a resident of the area and the Parks Superintendent she is double invested. She stated she and PWD Hintz put together a draft when this was first brought to City Staff for parking on the north side of the lot and turning the corner until the end of the current parking, which could gain up to 40 parking spots. She stated this plan would not only assist SCH for additional parking, but would also be a benefit to the park to fix the current parking spots and make lay down curbing but also because the current parking is not adequate for the use of the park. She stated with this plan it is the smallest imprint into the park and allows room for current infrastructure and the expansion plans that will double the size of the ninja warrior equipment.

The Committee indicated that they agree that putting the parking on the north and wrapping around to the current parking would be a good compromise and least amount of impact on the park and neighborhood, but decided to table this item to give more time to investigate and get a better understanding of what would be best for everyone.

It was the general consensus of the Park and Recreation Committee to table this for a future committee meeting that will be scheduled at a later date.

The residents asked to be kept informed of any future meetings and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked that anyone wanting notification to provide their email on the sign-in sheet and when it is scheduled, she will email them the information.

Adjourned at 6:15pm.

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