

**BELGRADE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Belgrade City Hall
July 11th, 2023
6:30 pm**

Park and Recreation Board Chairperson Perry called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Park Board (PB) members in attendance were Chairperson Diana Perry, Council Member Jason Guffey, and Board Members Emily Decker and Nick Bates.

City staff in attendance were City Manager Neil Cardwell and Public Works Director Steve Klotz.

Action: Board Member Bates motioned to approve June 13th, 2023 minutes. Board Member Decker seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Forum:

No comments were offered during the Public Forum.

Reports:

Director's Report:

Discuss Splash Park QR Code Update

Director Klotz updated the PB that the status of Splash Park's QR code still isn't operational. The IT department is working on making a new QR code and building a webpage for Splash Park donations that should be more user-friendly.

Discussion:

Discuss Parks, Trails, And Recreation District Structure

City Manager Cardwell mentioned he spoke with the Finance Director about the City covering the transaction costs of the donations.

He also talked about the recent tax reappraisal notice. He mentioned that a graph stating that Belgrade was the most expensive community to live in is a little misleading in that notice. He explained how the Department of Revenue (DOR) came up with its numbers and what they mean. He then segued into the Belgrade Parks, Trails, and Recreation District (BPTRD) and the new Library, which will add to the taxes, but the taxes will still be lower than they were four years ago.

Cardwell explained that he attended the County Attorney meeting for the Commission. They went through the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), where they found some edits that needed to be made because the Pool Bond failed. Some of the big edits were the make-up of the board. It will be three county representative seats, three city representative seats, and one Ex officio seat,

which will be a Council member and serve as the board president. The Ex-Officio will only vote in the event of a tie.

The other edits are more finance oriented. For example, if a budget amendment of over \$50,000 is needed, or if the board goes out to buy or lease anything over \$250,000, something they will go into debt for, the Parks Board, City Council, and County Commission would have to approve it.

The last big edit was that the City has a first option to purchase in the unlikely event of dissolving the ILA and the board. For example, if the parks board decided a few years from now to buy a 50-acre tract of land, the agreement says it's owned by the City of Belgrade because, for practical purposes, the City is running it. For insurance, it must be owned and operated by the City. State law says it must be proportionally owned. And to fulfill that requirement the way it is written, that only comes into effect if the board is dissolved.

He then explained that the next step is establishing the board. There will be a resolution for the City Council's agenda on August 17th, 2023, establishing the parks board, and the county will do the same thing. After that, we will send the applicants who have submitted for the parks board to the county and City Mayor Nelson. The City would make recommendations to the county for the county seats, who would review them, and recommend to Mayor Nelson who to appoint to the board. This process is to comply with the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority's (MMIA) insurance requirement to cover the board. Next, the Regional Parks board will meet to adopt the Bylaws and a preliminary budget. Once the board adopts the Preliminary budget, the City Council and the County Commission would then adopt the budget. Then, the board can start talks about projects.

He then discussed the Parks Master Plan that will be tied to the City's Master Plan and answered any questions the board had. The time frame is to have the board appointed end of July and have the first meeting in early August.

For Your Information:

Director of Public Works Klotz mentioned that some donations were made to the splash park to replace the water cannons. A thank you ad will be placed in the Belgrade paper.

Cardwell added that pending all the approvals talked about earlier, Steve Klotz will be the director of the Parks, Trails, and Recreation.

Chairperson Perry thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in the Parks and Recreation Board over the years.

Adjourn:

Council member Decker motioned to adjourn, Board member Bates seconded- All in favor! 7:20 pm

Russell C. Nelson

Diana Perry, Park Board Chairperson

Russell C. Nelson Mayor

Attest:

Camille Gregory
City Clerk

