



**CITY OF LAUREL
PARK BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 04, 2022
5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 5:38 by Irv Wilke with Richard Herr, Richard Klose, Paul Kober, Phyllis Bromgard, Jon Rutt and Evan Bruce in attendance. Mayor Dave Waggoner and Matt Wheeler also in attendance.

Public Input: *Citizens may address the committee regarding any item of business that is not on the agenda. The duration for an individual speaking under Public Input is limited to three minutes. While all comments are welcome, the committee will not take action on any item not on the agenda.*

No Public Input

General Items

1. Approval of Park Board Minutes of July 14th, 2022

Richard Herr made a motion; Phyllis 2nd and the motion was approved to approve the minutes from the July 14th meeting.

New Business

2. Software for the Renting of JC Hall and the Shelters in Lion's and Thompson

Gavin Williams demonstrated the program to rent the buildings on line. It works the same as the campground program and is already up and running. We were happy with the results and promptness.

3. Storm Water Project using Russell Park

The project has been awarded to COP Construction and will begin in the fall. A playground will be added to Russell Park at the end of the project.

4. South Pond water system

The sprinkler line for the trees around Lions Park were damaged during the construction of the walking path. They are showing stress and need water. Evan made a motion to request quotes for repair or replacement; Richard Herr 2nd and the motion was approved.

5. Elizabeth Terrel with LARC (pool)

LARC passed around a "Wading Pool and Splashground Proposal"; LARC would like to volunteer to help raise funds, refurbish the building at the old pool. Discussion on different ideas and research that has occurred to date ensued. Cami Nelson from the Laurel Chamber of Commerce was also in attendance to offer support from the Chamber. Some money and grants are available and the Mayor said the City Attorney will approach the Riddle Estate to see if the funds for a pool could be used. The City's engineering firm will have someone at the next meeting to explain the process from now moving forward.

Old Business

6. Tennis Courts

Nothing New

7. Fir Field Bike Park

Looking for dirt, time to do it and cooler weather.

8. Splash Park at Thompson Park

See discussion under item 5.

9. Lighting and Electrical at Riverside Park

The lights have been ordered and the project is ongoing.

10. American Legion Building at Riverside Park

Richard Klose reported the building has been demo 'ed to the point of starting repairs. All repairs have been estimated at \$85,000.00. The amount of money to keep moving forward on plumbing and electrical is \$25,000.00. Some sources of funding is being looked at.

11. Riverside Park Updates

Very busy on the weekends and the City has been cleaning out the squatters and confused renters of the campground. \$6500.00 in rentals so far. New signs are up for the "Day Use Only" sections. No damage from the flooding, although the boat ramp needed to have rocks cleared and the City has done that. Jon motioned to request proposals for a sprinkler system at Riverside Park. Evan 2nd and the motion was approved. Evan motioned for the City to look at the old Shower Building for possibilities. Paul 2nd and the motion was approved. The Western Heritage Center advertised a "Hoof it with an Historian" at Riverside Park. Fee was \$10.00 per person and no permit was applied for from the City. Discussion followed as this was a complaint from a resident. Evan said it did not go as planned and no fees were charged for the tour.

Other Items

Announcements

12. Next meeting September 1st, 2022

The City makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in this meeting. Persons needing accommodation must notify the City Clerk's Office to make needed arrangements. To make your request known, please call 406-628-7431, Ext. 2, or write to City Clerk, PO Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044, or present your request at City Hall, 115 West First Street, Laurel, Montana.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40

Jon Rutt

Wading Pool and Splashground Proposal

LARC Laurel Activities Recreation Complex is seeking to assist with the City of Laurel in building of a wading pool and or splash park/splashground at the existing city pool area at Thompson Park. With hopes to have this project be the first phase of the LARC project. LARC would like to help fundraise and initiate the process with the support of the City of Laurel.

We have been contacted by John Davidson and Lee VanLuchene of 5 Star Pool and Spa they are a local pool company in Billings that would like to donate/volunteer to help with a pool project in Laurel.

Laurel is in desperate need of more healthy activities for our community and the children. LARC would also like to suggest that we fill the ice rink this winter, Thompson Park is a great place in our community to come together and interact. It just needs a little love, and community involvement.

The closest Splash Parks and Wading Pools are in Billings, that is a hardship on some families to get to them.

In Billings there are two filtrated, chlorinated wading pools located within the Billings City Park System. All wading pools are free for children and are open daily Noon to 6:00pm. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children at all times. Pioneer Park and Hawthorne Park.

There are 5 Splashgrounds in Billings, Terry Park, Castlerock Park, Rose Park, Highland, and North Park. All the wading pools and splash parks are maintained by the parks and rec department of Billings. We propose that the City of Laurel maintains the wadding pool and splash park.

We are hoping that the monies donated to build a pool for Laurel by Billie Riddle and Elsie Johnston can help with this project.

<https://www.thepricer.org/splash-pad-cost/> Says Commercial splash pads can cost anywhere from **\$41 to as much as \$61 per square foot**. If you want a DIY project, try purchasing one of the many pre-made kits online for about **\$1,900-\$3,000**. These come with no installation included. The average person would be spending about an extra **\$30 per month** if they were to run their splash pad six hours each day.

Splash pads are great for all ages. They require less maintenance than swimming pools. They just need regular maintenance, like winterization in October and start-up around April in some regions.