

City of Laurel
Park Board Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2018

In attendance were Park Board Members: Phyllis Bromgard, Amy Pollock, Irv Wilke, and newly appointed Council Member, Richard Herr; Kurt Markegard, Public Works Director; and Citizens, Curt Lord & Jim Eastman from Laurel Rod & Gun Club.

The Park Board welcomed Richard Herr, newly appointed member, and discussed an opening for an "at large" member since Irv is now serving as an appointed Council Member. Any who might be interested needs to submit a letter of interest to the Mayor.

1. **Public Comment:** Laurel Rod & Gun Treasurer, Curt Lord, presented a letter requesting the Park Board reconsider shooting in Riverside Park and asked for consideration to be a "Champion" of the LRGC building as outlined in the Riverside Park Master Plan (if adopted). Letter is attached to minutes and will be addressed at the February Park Board Meeting.
 2. **Minutes:** Reviewed and approved minutes from December. Irv moved to accept, Phyllis seconded, and they were unanimously approved.
 3. **Lease Negotiations:** Because of the changes to the Council & Mayor, the recommendation to provide a 5-year lease to the Horseshoe Club with a continued cost of \$60/year has not been presented to the Council. Irv and Richard said they would bring it up at Council meeting/workshop next Tuesday under "Other" items.
 4. **Update on Riverside Park Master Plan:** City Council received the draft the Park Board recommended. They will discuss it at the January 9th Meeting and a Public Hearing will be held on January 16th @ 6:30pm in order to get public input concerning the plan. Kurt will check with Noel about getting the plan posted on the internet so interested citizens have a chance to review the plan prior to the meeting. It was mentioned Laurel Outlook may also post the link on their website.
 5. **Update on Funds from Dept. of Justice:** Kurt spoke with Alicia Stickney just before Christmas and she said they didn't feel the water line & power lines met the scope of their plan. It looks like they will be recommending gravel, fire rings, concrete pads, bathroom (separate from the F&G one), and picnic tables. They mentioned they appreciated the Riverside Park Master Plan draft outlining our tentative direction. Kurt is going to verify that the City's matching funds CAN go toward the water and power lines.
- Concerning Lion's Park, it looks like they will possibly recommend the fishing dock and park benches. Kurt received a letter from the local Lion's Club committing to fundraising for their matching amount. There is also a grant due in February for a National Lion's Club grant that could help with the funds. Kurt said they would want to make it clear that the project is contingent on the DOJ funds.
- Kurt mentioned there will be a probably be a committee meeting toward the end of January that would be open to the public. Kurt said he will forward the email to the Park Board members in case they are interested in attending.

6. **Swimming Pool Update:** Amy shared that LuAnne contacted Sara Schreiner of Sunshine Academy (a daycare that uses the pool often in the summer) and asked her about cost, passes, etc. and thought Sara might attend. LuAnne said Sara's biggest concern was safety which she felt was very good in 2017. She also mentioned shade and water temperature.

Amy agreed that if we are considering increasing the price, we need to somehow provide shade and make it a priority. She asked about asking CHS about a possible donation of the poles so we could have a cover. Kurt said the concern is making sure it is engineered properly to withstand the wind. He said he watched the wind pick up a full-sized man and put him in the barbed-wire part of the fence while putting the cover over the pool. He will look into ideas that would be safe and affordable.

Kurt also mentioned that even though they weren't able to use the cover (due to the risk during high winds) the water was warmer last year he believes because it was hotter, but also because the paint helped seal the pool. Therefore, they didn't lose as much water and weren't having to add lots of cold water every day. Kurt said we need to be sure to get our recommendation for fees in at our February Meeting so it can go on the new schedule and charges that will probably be coming out late in February, depending on the new Mayor. Therefore, we will need to make a recommendation next meeting on a possible increase and an amount for an annual pass and/or annual family pass.

Other: Kurt mentioned the Tree Board is looking at a plan to plant several trees at South Pond. Phyllis received their minutes as a representative of the Lion's Club and shared them with us. It looks like they are in the process of making a tree plan and will bring it to the Park Board for recommendation to the Council when it is finished.

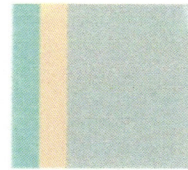
Kurt talked to Jamie Kirby, the State DNRC Forester, and has applied for a \$750 Arbor Day Grant. He also discussed with her the possibility of the "ash borer worm" becoming a problem soon and wiping out the ash trees in Laurel. He said the worm has been causing problems in North Dakota and Wyoming and he believes it will head our way. In order to combat the loss of all of the trees, he has started planting seedlings that he will grow for a little while and then see if the LHS FFA Greenhouse will help grow them until they are big enough to plant around town. He is also looking possibly growing some at the sewer plant using water before it is overly treated. It would make a nice location as there is an 8ft fence to protect from deer and hopefully vandalism. Someday, he'd like to have a program where residents could get a free tree to replace an old one if they agree to care for it properly.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Amy Pollock, Park Board Member

Laurel Rod and Gun Club
PO Box 986
Laurel, MT 59044



January 3, 2018

City of Laurel (Park Board)
PO Box 10
Laurel, MT 59044

Dear City of Laurel (Park Board),

The LRGC would like to continue to Lease the property in the East third of Riverside Park as we have previously Leased for many years. Our current lease expires May 7, 2018. Considering the fact that the Riverside Park Master Plan Open House showed an overwhelming public support for continuation of shooting events in Riverside Park we are asking for reconsideration to continue shooting in the Park. We also would like to move forward for consideration to become the Champion of the LRGC Building as the Master Plan recommends to find groups to refurbish the buildings in the Park. We have the funds to repair the building and feel that shooting sports would be an added benefit to the park giving more recreation and educational things to do for the future campers in the Park. It is also a needed facility to teach hunter education, firearm safety, and needed for several youth groups to learn and practice in and also needed for other events such as weddings, banquets, reunions and other family events. May we remind you that 156 folks requested shooting continue at the Open House followed by 113 for water and restrooms. Shooting was absolutely the most requested thing for the Park.

Sincerely,

Laurel Rod and Gun Club, Curtis Lord (Treasure)

