

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

April 28, 2010
10:35–11:30 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard, and Roy Houseman

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier

Others Present: Shirley Kinsey, Bill Bonetati, Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of April 14 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

A. Confirm the appointment of John O'Connor, Norma Nickerson and Susan Ridgeway to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term commencing May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2013 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 04/26/2010)([Remove from Agenda](#))

Motion: The Committee recommends Council confirm the appointment of John O'Connor, Norma Nickerson and Susan Ridgeway to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term commencing May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2013

Mayor Engen provided background information on his recommended appointments to the Parks and Recreation Board. There were good applicants for the three open spots on this board. The Mayor interviewed each applicant and recommends that Susan Ridgeway, John O Connor and Norma Nickerson be appointed to the board.

With limited discussion it was moved to appoint the three new board members. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS –

A. Budget update on aquatics ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 12/21/09) ([REMOVE FROM AGENDA](#))

Bill Bonetati from the Finance Department provided the committee with aquatics financials from the past two years. He provided two reports, one with nine months year to date totals for both pools as well as individual year to date reports on Splash and Currents. The combined report shows a comparison of actual to budget and comparison to the first nine months of FY 09. The financials at this time shows the pools having to use less general subsidy at this time as compared to last year.

The other report he provided showed the nine month actual with a three month projection for April, May and June as compared to actual budget from FY09. Staff has worked hard to manage utilities and program during the recession to keep expenses down and generate revenue. The subsidy projection is less than last year but start up for Splash will begin in May. Although staff tries to anticipate and budget for breakdowns, there is always the possibility of mechanical failure due to weather and age. The weather is also a determination in how much subsidy will be needed for this year and is unknown at this time.

Lyn would like to see actual monthly total for the two fiscal years rather than a budget with projections. She also wanted to see a more detailed expenditure report. Bill will meet with Lynn and provide her more information.

B. Update on Montana House Bill 645 funds for Playground Installations Project and Greenough Park Bridge ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 04/26/2010)([presentation](#)) ([REMOVE FROM AGENDA](#))

Donna Gaukler provided an update on the projects funded by HB 645. The projects included four playgrounds at Marilyn, Sacajawea, Boyd and LaFray Parks. There was also funding for the installation of the Greenough Bridge.

The process for the playgrounds include

- Public Open House held January 23
- Competitive Sealed Proposals process used
- Neighborhood residents involved in selection
- All playgrounds must meet numerous safety, accessibility and other criteria
- All site include engineered wood as fall zone

The project includes playground procurement, installation, landscape, and ADA access. Donna reviewed the conceptual master site plans for each park which shows location of the playgrounds in the park and other components.

The competitive sealed proposal process was used and worked well as it gave a greater opportunity for the Neighborhoods to be involved in the planning and selection of the playground equipment. It also reduces the amount of time and cost needed to prepare an RFP. All playgrounds meet numerous safety, accessibility and other criteria. All sites will have engineered wood as fall zone, which result in less weeds, more accessibility for wheel chairs and strollers. Some of the playgrounds will contain more traditional elements, others are more aero tech. There were nine proposals submitted and final selection will be determined this week. Sirius Construction was selected to install the playgrounds.

The permitting process for installation of the Greenough Bridge is almost complete. The bridge was removed several years ago during high water but due to regulations the City was not allowed to replace it. Funds were allocated to the project and staff has worked with Fish Wildlife and Parks on permits and timing for the new bridge replacement. The work will start later this summer and the bridge will be in by August. There have been many individuals, businesses and groups who have contributed time and money to the project.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

A. Review Conservation and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee referrals. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.