

MINUTES
CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025

ACTION ITEMS (Repeated from 2/11/25 meeting).

Jen Frazer

- Speak with the Golf Board about formalizing cross country skiing on the Golf Course.

Jordan Kibbee

- Smoke Stations placed at Rader and Springs Parks
- Plans for grand opening celebration.

Kelly Huffield

- Explore the costs to repair/replace the sign at Joanna's Park.
- *Adopt a Spot*: Finish getting agreements signed for next year. Get binder & agreements with the City, place recognition signs.

Pattie Berg

- Follow up with City as required.
- Follow up with Rotary Club on Shelter maintenance
- Review City Attorney's email regarding Committee Ethics rules; update Handbook as necessary.

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tressa Blair at 5:05 p.m.

Members present: Chair Blair, Jen Frazer, Kelly Huffield.

Proxies: Jordan Kibbee assigned her proxy to Jen Frazer.

Also present: Dee Martin, Hockey interest group; Pattie Berg, City Council Liaison.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Jen Frazer and seconded by Kelly Huffield the Minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Committee made some changes to the February 25, 2025 Work Session Minutes. On a motion made by Kelly Huffield and seconded by Jen Frazer, the Minutes of the February 25, 2025 work session were unanimously approved as amended.

Review of Draft Recreation Master Plan

The Committee reviewed an updated draft Master Plan which included changes made by the Committee during the February 25, 2025 meeting and changes made by Jen Frazer and Jordan Kibbee after the February 25th meeting.

The Committee also reviewed Great West's response to information provided after the 2/25/25 meeting by Liaison Berg as directed by the Committee.

The Committee found having age group breakdowns on some of the survey results to be very helpful; for example what young parents had requested versus what those 65 plus had requested. While the need for restrooms seemed to be a common theme, they were primarily requested by the 25-34 age group, which likely includes young parents. In addition, dog parks were most frequently requested by 18 to 24 year olds. This insight helped the Committee discuss the possible prioritization of future projects.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the content and flow of the draft Master Plan. There was a general consensus that the content of the draft did not meet the Committee's expectations. It was also the consensus of the Committee that the flow was not clear. For example, there were several instances where information about a given Park could be consolidated to improve the readability of the plan.

The Liaison offered to review of the City planning documents and use them as examples to prepare a new draft. This led to the need to have another work session, which was scheduled for March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Public Comment Committee 'good of the order' comments</p>
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Ice Skating/Hockey - Dee Martin shared information regarding the cost to purchase an ice rink in a box. For a 60' x100' rink, an EZ Ice Rink would be \$9,650. The product can be easily set up and taken down. It includes boards, a tarp, and braces and straps which keep the rink together. These rinks are not staked to the ground.

These rinks can be placed directly on the ground. The cost to create a base for the rink would depend on the approach, but it could be as high as \$40,000 for pads which form the base of the rink, which are available from the manufacturer. Another option would be to place the rink on a concrete surface. The cost for a 60x100 concrete pad would be around the same as was paid for the lift at McStravick Court (\$16,150). In this case, the rink could also be used for summer hockey programs.

Additional costs would include the purchase of hockey nets.

The Liaison will check with the McStravick family to see if they have any interest in expanding the use of McStravick Court to include a temporary ice skating rink.

Easter Activities - Jen Frazer announced that the Lions Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Springs Park on Saturday April 19th, and the Baptists are holding an Easter function on Sunday the 20th.

It was the consensus of the Committee that it would be nice to have the grand re-opening in conjunction with the Lion's Easter Egg Hunt. However that would depend on all of the work getting done at Springs Park. Liaison Berg will follow up with Mayor Nelson regarding the feasibility of this timeline.

Liaison Report – See last page. In addition:

- The Los Arbolos playground structure is scheduled to be delivered to Bair Park on March 28, 2025.
- Mayor Nelson was not sure when Steve's Installs would resume work. He was going to contact them.
- Two Committee seats expire June 30, 2025 (current incumbents Jen Frazer and Kelly Huffield). The Liaison will ask the City to advertise these positions so there is no gap in Committee membership.

<p style="text-align: center;">Adjournment and set next meeting date</p>

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:10 p.m.

**Parks Advisory Committee
Liaison Report January/February 2025
Updated through 3/9/25**

Funding Update

- **HB355 Funds** –
- **T-Mobile Grant**

Project Updates

- Parks Master Plan
 - Discussion to be continued 3/11/25
 - See response from GW regarding the information included in the Draft Minutes from our last meeting. (I am forwarding without reviewing it first.)
- Springs Park Work:
 - *Need to discuss and plan for installation of the other signs.*
 - End of project celebration - Are not sure of project completion date, so deferred until March's meeting.
- Bair Park Work:
 - *I have not yet ordered the mats for the Los Arboles structure. They are in the budget, but just didn't order them. Will do so when I'm "back in circulation"*
- ADA Access Work
 - *The work will be completed in the spring.*
 - *I need to order disabled parking spot sign(s).*
- Rader Park Vault toilet – *No change from last month. Funded by HB355; will be installed next summer.*
- Other:
 - *Joanna's Park - \$700 in budget for rails. The Mayor and I have talked about this, but I need to clarify who's doing what to get this done.*
 - *Need update from Jordan on smoking stations.*
 - *On 2/17/25, Laurie Auger called on behalf of the Leadership Class that is taking place. They are having a sort of day of service and were wondering if the City Parks could benefit from that. I told her we could definitely find something for them to do Clean up day at Spike's.... thinning perennials, etc., etc. She is collecting info from several places, and the class will decide what project(s) to take on. This will be held in June or July (she couldn't remember the date the class had chosen.) She will get back in touch with me if /when a Parks project is selected.*
 - *3/9/25: Nothing since Laurie's call.*