Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
July 13, 2015

Present: Board Chair Blake Hempstead, Vice Chair Robin McKernan, Commissioner Kevin Hart, Stephanie Galle, Ed Derzay, Shawn Hansen.

Others present: CEO Connie Ternes-Daniels.

Chair Blake Hempstead called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FROM APRIL 13, 2015

A. There was no quorum so no official action was taken or needed for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

A. CEOs recommendation to hire a recreation coordinator.

Discussions about the job description were formed by all members, all of whom were concerned about the lack of a job description not being drafted by CEO Ternes-Daniels. Stephanie Galle was concerned about what exactly the responsibilities the recreation coordinator would have. Vice Chair Robin McKernan was wondering if this job duty could be intertwined with the Pool Manager position in the summer. CEO Ternes-Daniels said she was happy with the direction of the pool this year with a new employee and didn't want to commit to that at this time. She said a stipend of $10,000 had been budgeted for this postion when former Parks and Recreation Director Pat Huber resigned in 2013 and was interested in filling a position that was created and approved by her and the Commissioners at that time. Ed Derzay was concerned about the commitment to an adult recreation program superseding any youth athletics shouldn't be allowed. Board Chair Blake Hempstead echoed Derzay's sentiment, but also said that's why it was important to work with school officials in leaving some seldom used gyms during later evening hours available when the youth usually aren't using them. All agreed that some sort of adult recreation and an increased involvement in youth recreation is needed. A vote to hire a recreation coordinator was denied unanimously – the reason being the board wanted to see a job description in hand before approving the CEOs recommendation. CEO Ternes-Daniels said she would draft the job description and present it to the board during their August 3, 2015 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CEOs update of projects within the city parks

CEO Ternes-Daniels presented a worksheet describing the upcoming work projects currently in the mix for new construction, the biggest ticket item of which being bathroom remodels within Washoe and Benny Goodman parks.

B. Merging services with Old Works Golf Course

Blake Hempstead discovered a large amount of money being paid for a county service that wasn't serving a pertinent purpose and approached the board and CEO about possibly changing the existing plan. Currently, the county contracts with TruGreen in Butte to spray three applications of weed fertilizer on several parks within Anaconda, West Valley and Opportunity. This service costs the county over $18,000 according to the 2014 bills presented to Hempstead by TruGreen. During May, TruGreen was unable or unwilling to spray the Charlotte Yeoman Martin Sports Complex prior to softball season or the State A tournament held in Anaconda, leaving the surface full of dandelions and other weeds. In other words, it wasn't a premium surface for playability with the weeds being so prevalent. Talks by Blake Hempstead, Parks and Recreation Director John "Leo" Sladich and CEO Executive Assistant Heather Edwards with TruGreen resulted in no action being done before the tournament, leaving the premiere softball facility in Montana looking less than such. Luckily, Old Works greens superintendent Josh Thurner stepped in and cleaned the surface up by cutting the grass everyday to make it more appealing to the eye, however the grass, as he described it, looked "hungry" and in need of attention. Hempstead proposed these services could be handled by Old Works and possibly even save the county money. Josh Thurner said he could do what TruGreen did in addition to fertilizing the parks for a fraction of what TruGreen charged. Blake Hempstead said keeping money in town while working with our own county-owned entity to enhance our parks, especially with someone as talented as Josh Thurner is in turf management, is smart business and should be looked at first before hiring outside help. All of the board members along with CEO Ternes-Daniels was in agreement. Before entering any further negotiations with TruGreen, members from the Parks and Recreation and Old Works Golf Course Authority boards will meet with Carl Nyman, acting on behalf of Old Works, and the Commission to discuss how we can get this rolling.

C. Update Bylaws of Parks and Recreation Board

Several passages in the bylaws were rewritten including resignations, meeting attendance, clerical duties during meetings and when regular meetings will be scheduled. CEO agreed to all the changes made by the board.

D. Warming shack/Gazebo at Kennedy Common

Several issues remain with the band stand area/warming shack at Kennedy Common. In years past the sides could be taken town to open the facility up, but John Leo Sladich has claimed taking down the sides may cause the structure to fall because of instability and disrepair. A request to have CEO Ternes-Daniels have the county engineer test the structure for stability and possibly include it into the buildings in need of repair was

posed. CEO Ternes-Daniels said she would take the matter under advisement and get it looked at.

MISCELLANEOUS

The only miscellaneous detail discussed was the addition of newly-hired Anaconda High Vice Principal/Activities Director Allen Green would be joining the board as per the Subdivision language. Shawn Hansen said he would present the subdivision verbiage to SD 10 Superintendent Jerry Nolan and get the board position filled accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment putting members under advisement of upcoming issues were raised.

ADJOURNMENT

Blake Hempstead, Chair