

**CITY OF BLAINE
PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD MINUTES**

Thursday March 9, 2017

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Sandie Miller - Chair

A. CALL TO ORDER: 9:30 AM

B. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Janet Pickard, Sandie Miller, Joan Clark, Sandra Schable and Garth Baldwin, Sean Ventura

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Community Development Director Michael Jones, Public Works Director Ravyn Whitewolf, Planner II Alex Wenger, Planner I Maddie Ottley

Ayn Balback contacted the City and resigned from her position as a Park and Cemetery Board member.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

D. NEW BUSINESS:

Scout Project in Lincoln Park

Mr. Wenger stated that he has been working with Eagle Scout candidates who are proposing construction of a public picnic shelter in Lincoln Park. Mr. Wenger asked the board for recommendations on placement.

The Board and staff held a discussion on the location of the proposed shelter.

**MOTION BY CLARK, SECONDED BY SCHABLE, TO RECOMMEND
PLACEMENT OF SCOUTS PICNIC SHELTER OFF D STREET,
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0).**

Park Land Donation Proposals

Mr. Wenger presented information for two proposals to donate land to the City of Blaine for recreational purposes. The first proposal is for land adjacent to Cain Creek, and the second for land adjacent to Dakota Creek.

Mr. Wenger highlighted the proposed donation of land next to Cain Creek as being a part of the existing Park and Recreation plan.

The Parks Board directed staff to bring back more information regarding the proposal for land adjacent to Dakota Creek.

MOTION BY PICKARD, SECONDED BY VENTURA, TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED DOANTED LAND ON BLAINE AVENUE NEXT TO CAIN CREEK, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0).

Lincoln Park Sewer Project Update

Mr. Wenger stated the Lincoln Park sewer extension project, officially called the East Blaine Sewer extension project, will start in approximately two week. Mr. Wenger highlighted that as part of the project, a parking lot will be constructed at end of E Street, the public trail will be improved along D Street and the parking lot area on D Street will be improved.

E. ON GOING BUSINESS:

Cemetery Financial Report

Mr. Jones presented the draft Park and Cemetery Board Recommendation on the Cemetery Fee Structure. The recommendation includes:

- Increasing fees for services to reflect the cost of providing the service.
- Increasing the plot purchase sot to cover a portion of the annual maintenance cost.
- Eliminating the maintenance fee as it would be included in the plot purchase cost.
- Increasing the endowment rate to attempt to achieve an endowment fund balance that is self-supporting of maintenance costs by 2117.

MOTION BY PICKARD, SECONDED BY BALDWIN, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE POLICIES WITHIN THE AMENDED PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD RECOMMENDATION, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0).

Grounds keeping of Cemetery

Ms. Whitewolf presented information pertaining to the difficulties of maintaining the Blaine Cemetery, and existing landscaping contract which has not met the City's standards.

Ms. Whitewolf highlighted that Public Works investigating the possibility of creating a part time position for maintenance of the Cemetery. Ms. Whitewolf added that the tentative position would be a non-benefitted and result in 69 hours per month dedicated to cemetery maintenance.

Ms. Whitewolf also stated that initial review of the position would most likely result in a cost savings compared to a third-party contract. Ms. Whitewolf did state an investment in maintenance equipment would need to take place.

Ms. Whitewolf also spoke about the two temporary full time positions for maintenance help this summer.

Board Member Pickard inquired about progress made towards opening bathrooms year round.

Ms. Whitewolf responded explaining the limitations of the existing reclaimed water system within the bathroom, and stated that Mr. Wenger is working on a proposal.

Board Member Pickard also inquired about alternatives to the distressed bird calls on the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility, and possibility of turning off the bird calls for events at Marine Park.

Ms. Whitewolf responded stating that the bird call recording is a condition of the SEPA review when the development was proposed, and she will look into the possibility of temporarily turning the recording down or off for events.

Board Member Pickard also inquired about additional plantings around the pump house in Lincoln Park.

Ms. Whitewolf responded stating that she would look into funding methods for additional plantings.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Member Baldwin and Ventura spoke about idea of donation bricks in Veterans Memorial Park for the public to purchase.

Mr. Wenger stated that staff will coordinate with Public Works to create a draft plan, and look into items like costs, maintenance, etc.

Board Member Clark asked for an update on Heron's Pond project.

Mr. Wenger responded stating that the engineering estimate for the project was greater than the budget, which has resulted in scaling of the project to exclude construction of the observation deck. Mr. Wenger added that the deck is still planned and will seek additional bids to complete this portion of the project.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION BY PICKARD, SECONDED BY SCHABLE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2017 AS AMENDED, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0-1, VENTURA ABSTAINED).

ADJOURNMENT: 11:28 AM

Park and Cemetery Board minutes of March, 2017, will be approved at the April, 2017 Park and Cemetery Board meeting.