

The December 19, 2019 Park Board Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Kuhn.

Present: Mayor Ron Kohn, Superintendent Ron Mattox, Jennifer S. Hughes, Randy Romens, Stephen Hunt, Vanessa Covington, Larry Hurst from Emergency Management, Dan McComb – City Council Representative.

Motion by Hunt, 2nd by Covington to appoint Randy Romens as Park Board Chairperson. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Motion by Romens, 2nd by Hunt to appoint Vanessa Covington as Park Board Secretary. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Motion by Hunt, 2nd by Romens to approve the agenda, claims and minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Visitors: Jon Marcoux, Shaun Rosen and Josh Miller of Creative Entertainment. Creative Entertainment has purchased the Park Place building for use as a haunted house. They have come to the Park Board to request using park property for parking. They submitted information regarding operating hours, number of vehicles expected, maps of suggested parking, etc. A lengthy discussion ensued. Larry Hurst of Emergency Management stated that part of the area was restricted due to the 911 tower and they have to have 24 hour access. The road to the tower cannot be blocked. Hughes and Covington expressed concerns with having vehicles on or near the cross country course/nature trail. Concerns were also discussed regarding lighting, security, park hours, etc. Parking at the amphitheater and using a shuttle was discussed. After discussion of many thoughts and ideas, Romens tabled the discussion until next month and asked the men of Creative Entertainment to spend some more time looking at the park for solutions.

Randy Romens, as a member of the Mill County Trails Board, gave an update on some trailer/rail car donations that will be used to replace a couple bridges.

Motion by Hunt, 2nd by Hughes to accept the Park Board Ordinance with changes to the wording to include "recreation facilities". Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Motion by Romens, 2nd by Covington to approve the Tree/Bench policy as amended. Picnic Tables will be added and Superintendent Ron Mattox will have control over where the benches/trees/tables are placed. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Jennifer S. Hughes left the meeting at 10:20. She offered to stay on the board until a replacement was found.

Discussion on budget. Hunt asked Superintendent Mattox "if money was no object, what would you ask for?" Mattox stated that one of his main concerns is not having enough money to just maintain what we already have. There are always shelters, playground equipment, docks, etc. that need maintained. Romens stated he felt like there should be a line item in the budget for maintenance. McComb stated he felt like the City Council was trying to get things turned around so they were in a better position to help the park. Some grand options were discussed. It was also discussed that we need to have a "5 Year Plan" for the park.

Discussion on Park Board meeting times was tabled until we can fill the empty park board positions.

Superintendent Report: Mattox stated the work at the new building is going well. They do not have electricity yet. They have the insulation up and hope to get heat soon. He is looking into getting rock for the driveway at the new building.

Motion by Covington, 2nd by Romens to adjourn the meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Vanessa Covington, Secretary



Randy Romens, Chairperson