

Pioneer Park Task Force
March 20, 2018
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Meeting Minutes
Secretary – Tamara Roche

Introductions: Brent Cromley / Mike Yakawich City Council Report

Officer Riley Finnegan- Crime Report

Special Guests: Lora Maddox, Elizabeth DeGrenier – Historical Neighborhood

Nick Lam – Park Police Officer

Current Business:

- January minutes approved
- Introductions
- Next-door – continues to be a great way for neighbors to communicate with each other
- Jerry Kessler – Introduction as new Chair for the Task Force
- Daylis Stadium – Good Neighbor Plan, only time will tell if sound will be turned down, with the new sound system. (See more about this plan in the newsletter) Football starts in August 2018.

Police Report – Officer Riley Finnegan

- Currentry have recovered over 30 stolen cars.
- Drug problems in Billings still growing with a huge amount of Heroin coming to Billings via Denver CO.
- They are working with US Attorney, DBA Officer and Rim Rock Foundation to work on ways to control the crime that comes with an increase of drug use.
- Currently of cycle of chasing criminals as there is a lack of jail space, past bond did not pass for more jail space.
- Neighborhood Watch – we will book a separate meeting for those that are interested in being part of this, we need to work with the police department to form this group in a proper way.
- Officer Finnegan continues to encourage all of us if we see something to call the police.

City Council – Brent Cromley – Mike Yakawich

- It was brought to the council that there is interest to bring a recreation center to the south side/ aquatics center indoor outdoor sports arena, this is very in the future even Laurel could be a possible place, this in very beginning talks.
- One Big Sky Center –
 - Acting City Administrator Bruce McCandless told the council that Hammes Company of Madison, Wisconsin, which presented its project research to the council on Dec. 4, is working on a term sheet “to tell us what Hammes believes will be necessary to get to a development agreement.”
 - Hammes Company includes three brief case studies touching on the company's involvement in three developments: a 20-year, \$5.6 billion private and public Destination Medical Center in Rochester, the Lambeau Field and Tiletown Development District in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the Allentown Entertainment District.
 - The development also features retail, dining, health and wellness facilities, a hotel, commercial office space and two historic buildings.
 - City voted to pay 100K for initial study with consultant with the Hammond group.
 - This is a 15-20-year plan

- Currently – Pot Holes are being repaired if you have one near your house please report it to the City of Billings.
- If you have a sidewalk that has 2 inch or larger gap, the city will be sanding the sidewalks down to level them out, if you have any sidewalks with a 2 inch or larger gap please call the City of Billings
- Councilman Brent Cromley and Mike Yakawich were very happy with our neighborhood turnout of approx. 32 neighbors.
- Lead pipes they will be working on another 20 blocks to check for lead pipes Broadwater to Montana Avenue there are total of 13,000 blocks total that need to be looked at. Scratch your waterpipe to see if it is lead.
- April 29th is American Clean-up Day = ELKS Lodge will be doing a Drug Roundup and drop off from 9:00 am – Noon with the DEA

Park Officer – Nick Lam

- This has been a new position since October 2017
- He works solo and overlooks 144 parks in the area
- He will be working with volunteers in the volunteer ranger program
- Graffiti tagging in area is happening largely because of Instagram as they have a game of can you tag more than me. He is working with the state and attorney and they hope to find who these people are with their Instagram accounts
- He will be working all hours this summer to keep folks not aware of his regular hours.
- He gave us his business card with email and cell phone. He encourages us if we see something at the park to call 911 and him directly. If your home has a camera on it that can be helpful as well when they catch the bad guys as evidence.

Historical Celebration – Elisabeth DeGrenier and Lora Maddox

- North Elevation – 1st Historical Neighborhood in Billings, MT
- Historical Celebration April 19th 2- 4 triangle park by Harper and Madison is this right??
- Lou to talk to Joni about the celebration to see if Harper and Madison could stay open longer that day
- 2 plaques will go in neighborhood to add to the walking tour of the neighborhood.
- You can purchase a house sign for your house, that has history information under it a couple of neighbors on 32 have done this and they were under \$50 and quite nice.
- Contact National Register Sign Program Coordinator at 406.444.1687 or ebaumler@mt.gov
- Donations needed for Street Light Banners, the cost is approx. \$325 - \$350 per light. Please contact Steve Shandera 406.855.2551 or skshandera@gmail.com for more information

Open Forum

- Concern of speeding through the neighborhood
- Number of renters – no way to tell who owns and who does not
- Concern of home owner/renters not plowing sidewalks within 24 hours, city policy is that all home owner/renter must plow 2 inches of snow within 24 hours. It was suggested that you can call the city if you see sidewalks not plowed.
- Looking for neighbors to contribute to articles for the Pioneer Park Newsletter, please contact Jerry Kessler