

Pioneer Park Task Force Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
McKinley School, 7 p.m.

In attendance: Linda & Perry Moler, Lue Ponich, Officer Riley Finnegan, Brent Cromley, Tamara & Kevin Roche, Gerald Kessler, Tom Griffin, Maggie Zaback, Heather Kramer, Mike Yakawich, Joe Hepner

Call to Order and Pledge

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Perry Moler, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved on a **motion by Linda Moler, seconded by Brent Cromley. Motion carried.**

Newsletter

There seems to be overwhelming support for continuing the newsletter. Gerald Kessler and Tamara Roche agreed to take over its responsibilities. They will need input and ideas for articles. Perry agreed to assist in this by asking for input through NextDoor. There needs to be clear direction as to how and where articles and ideas can be submitted.

City Council Report

Councilman Brent Cromley reported on the recent election of the new mayor, Bill Cole, as well as several City Council members, including the re-election of our Councilman Mike Yakawich. The national search and process for hiring a new City Administrator continues. More evidence regarding One Big Sky Center will be presented on December 4.

Councilman Mike Yakawich reported that 2 city police officers are now assigned to the Billings Clinic campus. In addition, Officer Lamb is serving as the Park Ranger with special attention given to the needs of Pioneer Park and North Park. Citizens can call him directly at 591-6551.

Other City Council concerns include work on an ordinance to deal with unoccupied buildings. Task force members can write letters to Councilmen Cromley and Yankawich about traffic concerns.

Police Report

Detective Sergeant Riley Finnegan reported that the usual statistics that he shares at Task Force meetings were not available this time. The Investigations Division has been very busy as of late with officer-involved shootings and several homicides. Two armed robberies took place today! The Billings Clinic officers will be in constant communication with the Billings Police Department. Due to the quality of life problems which have become so prevalent, 3 patrol officers (nominated by their peers and supervisors) will focus on street crimes, proactively going after motor vehicle thefts and burglaries.

It was suggested that traffic complaints be sent to Perry and he will forward them to the Traffic Division. Also, the Facilities Director located in the Billings Clinic basement might be able to address

employee traffic issues. If more yellow paint for curbs is needed at Avenue D and 3rd, the Public Works Department would need to be notified to get it marked.

Election of Officers

Tamara Roche and Maggie Zaback were nominated to serve as Co-Secretaries. Gerald Kessler and Perry Moler were nominated to serve as Co-Chairpersons. **Brent Cromley moved, Linda Moler seconded, to elect this slate of officers. Election motion carried.**

Daylis Stadium Noise and Light Problem

Gerald Kessler and Joe Hepner explained the history of the noise and light issue at Daylis Stadium. Gerald has lived nearby for 36 years and found the noise level to be tolerable and understandable as part of living near such a facility. However, with the addition of a new sound system, the volume has become unbearable. Furthermore, incredibly loud music is now being played during practice sessions from 4-6:30. Gerald has talked with a number of school and school district officials in an attempt to reach some sort of compromise. Ed Kimmick of the *Last Best News* will have an article tomorrow

What can the Task Force do? It was decided that Gerald will draft a letter to the School Board to be signed by the Task Force chair (Perry).

Other Discussion

Tom Griffin addressed the problem of traffic at Avenues E and F at the end of 2nd Street West. He would like to see another traffic study of our area, with a focus on the impact of Billings Clinic growth.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 on a **motion by Maggie Zaback, seconded by Linda Moler. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lue Ponich, Secretary