

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 27, 2017

The Public Service Committee met Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room. 17 S. 8th Street, Miles City, Montana. Present were Committee Chair Dwayne Andrews and Committee Members Ken Gardner, John Uden and Kathy Wilcox.

Also present were: City Attorney Dan Rice, Public Works Director Scott Gray, Public Utilities Director Al Kelm and Payroll, Claims Clerk/Minute Recorder Ally Capps.

Request of Citizens/Public Comment

- None -

1. Committee Member Comments

Citizen Guy Lund, 807 N. Custer called Committee Chair Andrews regarding a street light out in the middle of the block. Public Works Director Gray said he would contact Montana Dakota Utilities to make them aware of the outage.

2. Unfinished Business

- None -

3. New Business

Committee Chair Andrews moved the agenda items as follows:

A. Jetty at Spotted Eagle

Duncan Bartholomew, President of Walleyes Unlimited updated the committee on the Spotted Eagle Jetty. The rock and cement jetty will stick out in the water 100' having a 20' top and a 40' base. The effect of this jetty will be to encourage fishing deeper in the lake and it will be good for small aquatic animals and baitfish to live. The jetty will be handicap accessible. It will have a fiber product as a base covered with a road mix, scoria and natural rock on top. The project will start on Thursday, September 28, 2017 and with funding and good weather it will be completed this fall. Walleyes Unlimited would like to add a second and possibly a third jetty if funding from the State holds.

*** Committee Member John Uden made a motion to approve the update on Spotted Eagle and to continue with the work Walleyes Unlimited is doing to complete the Jetty, seconded by Committee Member Gardner. Motion **passed** unanimously 4-0.*

B. Splash Pad Location

Citizen Paul Hazelton, 111 S. Winchester, commented that the Splash Pad in Wibaux Park is a great location and a needed asset for Miles City.

Citizen Sandy Hays, 105 S. Stacy, asked if any trees were going to be removed? MCI² representative Goff, 249 Sunset Drive, responded that any trees removed would be for the safety around the Splash Pad.

Citizens Scott and Venetty Denson, 115 S. Strevell, wanted to let the committee know that they believe parking is not a problem around the Wibaux Park. They also would like to see if trees are removed, that some are replanted to take their place. Also is the park area that is used for maintenance would it be possible to have chained to keep the cars from driving into the park.

Director Gray stated that there is a chain that goes across that area.

Citizen Nancy Patch, 2216 Bridge Street, wanted to commend MCI² for the work the group has done to improve or develop family friendly areas.

MCI² representative John Goff asked the committee if it would it be possible for the group to be in charge of the naming of the Splash Pad. They would like to use that to help increase momentum for their tier level sponsorship with the highest being a naming option. A potential sponsor would donate \$250,000.00 for naming rights. With this donation, it would be possible for the Splash Pad to be completed a year earlier than planned.

Citizen Allen Kelm, 511 S Cottage, is looking forward to using the Splash Pad with his grandchildren.

*** Committee Member Uden moved to make the recommendation to Council for MCI² to have naming rights to name the Splash after a sponsor as recognition for their generosity, seconded by Committee Member Gardner. On roll call vote, recommendation **passed unanimously 4-0.***

MCI² representative Branden Janshen, 604 S. Center, updated the committee on the next steps planned to move forward with the Splash Pad. We have set the donations up on tier leveling; \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 and \$250,000. Anticipated cost is \$800,000; we are still waiting for some last minute engineering drawings in November. They are holding off until then for a possible grant option. We will have a better estimate of the cost when that is completed. We have also planned to enlarge the existing shelter, which added to the cost. We have ear marked \$250,000 from the licence plate sales for the Splash Pad. With this amount and a \$250,000 donation, we will be able to go to the bank and see if they can help us out.

Citizen Lynn Hazelton, 111 S. Winchester, asked if the negative feedback is mostly on parking? MCI² representative Janshen responded that most of the complaint concerns are the noise that will be coming from the park. Citizen Hazelton asked if the park closes at 7p.m. what kind of noise is a problem during the day? Representative Janshen responded it is just the noise in general during the day that was the concern.

Representative John Goff, stated the park will be an asset for future homeowners. Families with young children will value a park and all its amenities.

Committee Member Uden had spoken with an older retired couple on the south side of the park and they had informed him that they had not been aware of the proposed Splash Pad. Committee Member Uden asked other committee members if a variance sign or notification could be set up so the public could read the proposal at the location site.

Citizen Hazelton asked Director Gray if there was going to be some sort of buffer around the Splash Pad to help keep it clean. Representative Janshen responded that the engineers have planned a mildly sloped 10' concrete buffer around the Splash Pad to keep water in and to help keep grass and dirt out. Citizen Rick Huber, 2015 Sudlow, asked on Strevell Street is it in the plan to take out the boulevard to make room for more parking? Director Gray responded that Strevell Street is a 6" concrete street and it will be expensive to make the change and repairs needed. We have discussed that option but it currently is not in the budget. The parking on the east side of Strevell Street, we could take the curb out and eliminate the boulevard to make room for parallel parking. Citizen Huber then asked on the V.A. side, the east side of the park, would signs be used to address parking for park users and discourage those parking from the V.A. On the south side of the park is it in the plan to take trees out to make angled parking? Director Gray answered that is being discussed but we have three or four options we are also looking into. Director Gray said two of the older trees had been removed because they were considered unsafe. Citizen Huber asked Director Gray is it safe to say, the end result in anything that is done professionally, good, clean, workable and presentable has reasoning behind it? Director Gray assured Citizen Huber that there is a lot of thought that goes into our decisions.

***Committee Member Uden moved to adjourn, seconded by
Committee Member Gardner, motion **passed** unanimously.*


Dwayne Andrews, Chairperson


Ally Capps, Recorder