

## Minot Park Board Special Meeting

March 7, 6:30pm

The Minot Park Board met on March 7 at 6:30pm for a Special Meeting in Room 201 of the Minot Auditorium.

Members present: Cliff Hovda, Chuck Emery, Mike Schmitt and Steve Wharton. Also present were Ron Merritt and Elly DesLauriers.

President Hovda gave a brief introduction of the Minot Park Board and Administration Staff.

Executive Director Ron Merritt gave a brief presentation on current projects the Minot Park District is working on. That list included an outdoor recreation area and future golf course. The future renovation of the superfund site with disc golf, cross country running trails, and bike trails. The new tiger and lion exhibits under construction at the Roosevelt Park Zoo. The Park District is also working on preliminary plans for Overlook Park with the Magic City Discovery Center. As well as renovations at Polaris and Jefferson Park.

Executive Director Merritt then turned the floor over to the community user groups for their input.

Brian Bauman of the Minot Hockey Boosters thanked the Minot Park District for their support and the construction of the Pepsi Rink. The Hockey Boosters have seen growing numbers and are in support of fourth rink as their program grows.

Brian Thomas representing the Minot Tennis Association thanked Minot Park District for their support and the renovations of the Hammond Outdoor Tennis Complex. He also presented additions they would like to see to the complex in the future, including additional lighting, shade structures and additional flag poles. They would also like to see updates to the Indoor Cameron Tennis Center.

Jenny Steckler representing the Minot Zoo Crew thanked the board for their continued support of the Minot Zoo Crew and the Roosevelt Park Zoo. The Minot Zoo Crew is extremely excited about the current construction of the new lion and tiger exhibits. They also hope to do future renovations of the primate, giraffe and bear exhibits. As zoo standards continue to evolve the Roosevelt Park Zoo needs to evolve right along with it.

Thor Nelson from Magic City Fast Pitch thanked the Minot Park District for their continue support and for renovations along with Minot Recreation Commission for the new turf fields at the South Hill Complex. They are excited for the upcoming summer when they host the State Junior Olympic tournament with over 1,000 hotels rooms. Looking ahead they would like to see the addition of new restrooms, batting cages, shade structures and press boxes.

Commissioner Mike Schmitt questioned what makes the turf so attractive for tournaments. Thor Nelson said the turf is always playable even with rain. The fields are lighted so they can play later if there is a rain delay. We have a great central location for our fields are close to restaurants, business and hotels.

Thor Nelson also works closely with the Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports program. He thanked the board for their continued support. Programs in other areas of the state are in awe of the cooperation they receive from the Minot Park District. This is sometimes not the case in other cities. They have an athlete that travels four hours every week just to play hockey.

Mike Tappe presented a trail concept for Terrance Heights. The proposed trail would be 3.7 miles long and be suitable for walking, running, and mountain bikes. As well as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter months. It is a great piece of property that would serve the community well.

Cathy Aspass representing Ask Swim Club in Minot presented the need for an aquatic facility in Minot. Minot has a rich tradition in swimming with over 50 championship banners. Minot is no longer able to host major meets due to limited deck space. Throughout the growth of the oil boom many communities have added aquatic facilities but few of them are able to host major meets due to limited deck space. Cathy reported swimming is a life skill and we need facilities to teach lessons. There are many activities to fill pool time and it could be used by the community in many different ways.

Commissioner Cliff Hovda reported he toured the Williston ARC and asked if that would be adequate for larger meets. Cathy believed there is room for improvement from the ARC and that there is limited deck space, limited locker room and the bulk head is much too narrow for large events.

Commissioner Steve Wharton asked if they would be interested in a 100-meter pool. Cathy noted that a 100-meter pool does not exist.

Commissioner Schmitt asked if there were standards for a facility to host larger meets. Cathy reported there are not written standards but there needs to be room for 800-1,000 spectators, more lanes means a more efficient meet, 50-meter pool is preferable and locker room space.

Larry Hubarrd representing the Minot Swim Club also presented on the need for an aquatic facility in Minot. Currently Minot is unable to host large meets but would love to see a facility large enough to host state meets, Special Olympic meets, and regional meets. Pool time is at a premium and with aging pools throughout our community this is a major concern. Larry stressed the importance of swim lessons and noted the clubs are a feeder program to an extremely successful high school program. He reported he would like to dream big on this project to include a warm water therapy pool, lazy river, splash park, and keep in mind the need for adaptive swim meets. It is important to know the economic impact a facility would bring to Minot with the ability to host major swim meets. They would like to see a committee formed to see what can be done to build a new aquatic facility in Minot. They want this to be a partner project that the community can be proud of.

Andy Latch representing Magic City Youth Baseball presented to the board and thanked them for their partnership over the last 30 years. He thanked the board for the improvements at both Corbett Field and Hoeven park. Andy reported in the future they would like to see lighting at Hoeven Baseball Complex, additional shade structures, and look into the possibility of an indoor training facility on the land next to Hoeven Complex.

Patrice Mitchell has taught swimming lessons over the past 36 years in the Magic City. She echoed the need for an aquatic center. She requested a committee be formed to look further into the possibility of an aquatic center.

Sarah Dangerfield community member presented the need for more indoor recreation. They moved from Williston and as much as they enjoy the parks and the people of Minot they truly miss the ARC and the recreational opportunities it offered their family.

Mark Lyman representing the Magic City Discovery Center thanked the Minot Park District for their support of their project. Mark also noted he is a member of the Minot Swim Club and would love to come back and thank the Minot Park Board on a new aquatic facility at the next five-year planning meeting.

Sue Hamilton from the Minot Swim Club presented on the need for more amenities in Minot.

Dan Dangerfield community member and Minot Swim Club parent presented to the board. Dan thanked board and congratulated them on their accomplishments over the past five year. Dan and his family recently moved to Minot and they enjoy the parks and facilities along with the people of Minot. They would love to see a new aquatic facility along with more indoor recreation space for families to enjoy.

Executive Director Ron Merritt thanked everyone for their comments and their active participation in the meeting. He reported the online survey would be available on [www.minotparks.com](http://www.minotparks.com) as well as posted on our social media channels.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cliff Hovda, President

Elly DesLauriers, Clerk