

**Ogren Park Allegiance Field
Extraordinary Events Committee
Minutes ~ July 24, 2012**

Committee Members in Attendance: Ellen Buchanan (MRA); Ed Childers (City Council); Matt Ellis, Chair (Facility Manager); Gwen Hoppe (Missoula Community Forum); Dale McCormick (Riverfront Neighborhood Council); Alex Taft (City Council)

Committee Members Absent: Linda McCarthy (MDA)

Others in Attendance: Jared Amoss (Missoula Osprey); Melani Best (Committee Secretary); John Engen (Mayor)

Matt Ellis called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

There was discussion of the April 2 minutes. Matt suggested that he, Gwen and Nola Hunter, who took the minutes, meet to discuss the differences of the minutes and merge them into one set of minutes to bring to the committee. The minutes become a series of opinions because it is not reflected who said the statements.

Ed made the motion to accept Gwen's changes to the April 2, 2012 minutes and then review them in the meeting; Dale seconded the motion. The differences were discussed and the following changes were made before the approval of the minutes.

- Paragraph three: there was discussion regarding removing the paragraph "In working on the lease the Osprey fought hard to make sure the neighborhood still had a voice. The Osprey realize we have to be good neighbors for the ballpark to work". Matt asked that the sentence "The Osprey realize we have to be good neighbors for the ballpark to work" be added back to the minutes.
- Paragraph seven: remove "by whom?" as the statement is okay.
- Paragraph eight: starting "The Osprey has one concert scheduled for 1012 so far..." has been changed to "The Osprey has one concert scheduled for 2012 so far and it was not approved through the established voting procedures due to a 48 hour turn around time. Gwen Hoppe and Dale McCormick voiced concern that they were not notified until after the booking. The promoters contact Mountain Baseball when dates are available. It is a really competitive market here in Missoula and the promoters leverage against each other. Alex Taft noted that everyone should be contacted by email or phone. Gwen stated that the committee should decide what might be inappropriate and what impact the Extraordinary Event will have on the neighborhood. It was agreed that email votes can still be achieved as long as the entire committee is included and the proper information is provided."

- Paragraph twelve: grammatical change to second sentence adding “and that” Mountain Baseball...”
- Paragraph thirteen: remove “who presented this?” as the statement is okay.
- Gwen’s additional comment: remove as this is an ongoing discussion.
- Dale asked to have the second paragraph changed to what he had stated in the meeting. The paragraph will now read: “Dale mentioned that some people don’t believe in on street parking for those attending the events; though we all agree they have a legal right to park there and because people go fast down Hickory to get to the events, the gate is effective for the neighborhood.”

The April 2, 2012 minutes were approved with these changes.

The June 5, 2012 minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- Paragraph five, strike last sentence “The new agreement is more permissive, but simpler can be better as long as it accomplishes what it needs to”.
- Paragraph six, replace “Linda McCarthy voiced her frustration as a consumer with the gate. Ed Childers noted once Wyoming is open all the way through that could change the gate situation” with “There was a discussion about the gate which resulted in no action”.

Minutes – System for Taking, Approving and Posting:

Mayor Engen has had discussions with both Gwen and Matt regarding the minute taking for the committee. Melani Best, Administrative Secretary for the Mayor, will be the staff support for the committee and prepare the agendas, minutes and provide any other staff support that is necessary.

The purpose of the minutes are to inform the neighborhood and community about what is happening at the stadium.

The following procedure will be followed:

- Minutes will be taken in summary style around the discussion. Names will not be added to the minutes unless it is for a motion or action item, or is necessary for a specific comment.
- Minutes will be reviewed for the purpose of accuracy and the record will be changed if necessary, but only on factual circumstances, not on opinion, as all members are accountable for what they say. They will not be reviewed for nuance.
- If there is an event where the name has not been released, that will not be included in the minutes. Most of the time the announcement will be made before the approval of minutes at the next meeting, so it won’t usually be a problem.
- Minutes will be emailed to the committee after the meeting as well as with the agenda for the next meeting. They will be approved at the next meeting.

- After approval of the minutes, they will be posted on the city website. If a contract has not been signed for an event, the minutes will not be posted until the contract is signed.

Emails are public record and the committee has to work from a trust standpoint. If the name is in the minutes and are sent to everyone, it can be disclosed through a records search. The name has to be deleted out of the minutes until after it is announced.

Mayor Engen will attend the next meeting to discuss the minutes and help with the review of them.

Email Vote: An email vote is acceptable if necessary. If there is a need for an email vote, Melani will email the committee and tally the responses, emailing the committee with the result.

Fireworks:

Alex stated that, as a resident and a city representative, the June 22 fireworks show was a real shocker and they scared him. He heard a lot of comments from the neighborhood and received several long emails from people who normally do not complain about things in the neighborhood. The conditions in the weather made them louder and the neighborhood impression was that they were really long. He asked if fireworks were necessary and if they are a marketing piece that is important. If it is important, can they be modified so they don't make so much noise? Matt stated they are important enough that they have their own paragraph in the Missoula Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement. Attendance is up at those games and people get to see a safe fireworks event without having them in their backyard. A lot of people go to the games on those nights just for the fireworks.

There is an average of three fireworks shows per year. This year there is only two: June 22 and July 3. They are a low level firework, so they do not go as high as the mall fireworks and are safer. They are also smaller shells than the mall fireworks, so they aren't as loud. There were no complaints received for the July 3 fireworks show. There were a few complaints on the June 22 show due to them being done later because of a long game and a 45 minute delay for hail. The show started at 11 pm and lasted eight minutes. The humidity was also very high, around 98%, which carried the noise from the fireworks.

There was a discussion of moving the game start time to 6:30 on the nights fireworks are planned. The earliest fireworks can be shot off is 10:15 because it needs to be dark enough.

Public outreach / notification are important. The promotional calendar is put out several months before the beginning of the season and is posted on the Osprey website. The fireworks are advertised in several media forms. One suggestion was to put out the sandwich boards that usually announce a game being played that night that has information about fireworks. Mayor Engen said surprise is an issue, and the city will go the extra mile to announce when the fireworks will be and help with outreach to inform the neighborhood. He said he will meet with Matt, Ellen and Marty Rehbein, City Clerk, to discuss how neighborhood notification could happen through the Office of Neighborhoods and will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Dale said from his perspective, the June 22 fireworks show was good as he watched it from his porch. It was polarizing to some people in the neighborhood, and people brought out petty things in the emails that went around. This hasn't been an issue in the past.

Four proposals were made:

- Do not have fireworks in June because it doesn't get dark very early, but instead do that show in August.
- Do not have the fireworks if the game goes long and they are started later than 10:30 pm.
- Do not have the fireworks if the humidity is over 90 percent.
 - Mayor Engen said this is not something that can be controlled and could be costly to the Osprey. He is not inclined to make this a recommendation.
- Do not have "noise only" fireworks that go up and have a loud boom.

Matt said he would contact the company contracted to do the fireworks to discuss if there would be a penalty if the game went too late and they were unable to set off the fireworks.

Mayor Engen said the purpose of this committee is to approve extraordinary events at the stadium and discussing the fireworks issue was a courtesy to concerned members.

Hickory Closure:

The gate has been vandalized eight times since the beginning of the baseball season. The locking device has been cut. The Missoula Police Department have a person of interest and are close to a citation or arrest. The clarification of the vandalism was appreciated.

There was discussion of when the gate is supposed to be officially closed. The definition of an extraordinary event is "Events with potential expected or planned attendance at any one time of more than 2000 persons". There was discussion regarding if the gate should be closed with an expected attendance of 500 or 1,000 to keep the neighborhood from being disturbed. The question of whether 500 or 1,000 people attending an event adversely affects the neighborhood was raised. One committee member said when there are 1,000 people in attendance at an event, it does impact the neighborhood while another committee member said that there have been no problems with events with attendance between 1,000 and 1,500.

There was a suggestion to let this summer play out and see if there are any problems and if there are, they can be dealt with outside of the committee.

In order for the lease agreement to be changed from 2,000 to 500 for attendance, it would go through the Missoula City Council process. There are different Council members that may have different perspectives and the lease agreement may be more permissive than it is now.

Operationally, when the gate is closed, there is signage on the surrounding streets letting citizens know the street is closed.

Steve Martin Concert Follow Up:

The concert was a good event. The stage was on the pitcher's mound. Ticket sales were approximately 2,500 and there were approximately 2,200 people there. There was a shuttle that picked citizens up and brought them back downtown, which helps the downtown. This is something the Osprey pay for to help

the downtown and help citizens with parking. Anne Guest allowed those attending the concert to park in the parking garage for free starting at four pm.

The concert was less disruptive than some of the ball games have been. There were a lot of announcements for the shuttle which helped with the parking issue.

Future Events:

- All Abilities Playground Fundraiser - Thursday, July 26 from 4 – 7:30. They will play a couple of innings on the field, have awards and the Mayor will be speaking to them. The Little Smokies will be playing as well.
- Cash Hyde Fundraiser – September 16. Fundraiser for Cash Hyde, age 4, who has a form of cancer. They are having a celebrity softball game.
- Octoberfest – Late September. This is the Friends of the Civic Stadium’s main fundraiser. It will be similar to Brewfest, but will have more stuff . They are working on doing an auction. The committee meets next week and details of the event will be sent through an email to the committee for a vote. Funds will go to the R&D Account (Replacement and Development). The goal is to raise \$25,000 per the agreement.

In accordance with the lease agreement, the Friends of the Civic Stadium, a Montana nonprofit corporation, was incorporated for the sole purpose of raising funds to establish the Replacement and Depreciation Account in the amount of \$250,000. Pursuant to the agreement, a sum of not less than \$25,000 per year will be transferred to the city until the amount in the Replacement and Development Account reaches \$250,000.

Open Discussion:

Dale went through the previous Lease Agreement and Use Agreement documents and compared them item by item with the February 2012 Missoula Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement. He distributed a matrix he designed with differences between those two documents and the new document to the neighborhood asking them to reply back to him. Members wanted to be sure the committee knew there were three documents that were merged into the February 2012 Missoula Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement, not two, so items that may appear to have been added could have been in the third document. One change was to make this committee so it is similar to the committee for Caras Park. Attendance at meetings is up, but there was concern that the MDA replaced the Heart of Missoula as a voting member.

Matt stated that Dale is only representing one side of the neighborhood as he has had several people from the neighborhood contact him about liking the fireworks, supporting the gate and being supportive of the stadium. He said several of them are upset about what others in the neighborhood are writing.

The question of whether the firework shows violate the noise ordinance and should be considered an extraordinary event was raised. If it was just the firework show, it would be, but not in conjunction with an Osprey game.

There was a discussion about having a periodical review of the Civic Stadium Lease and Use Agreement. Mayor Engen said there was no secret the City Council was going through a review of the agreement and

had public hearings on it. Citizens have to show up at the meetings if they want to have a voice in the decision.

Matt stated he follows the agreement and won't do what the lease doesn't state without the direction of the Missoula City Council. If it is a legit problem, they work on it immediately. One example is the gate lock that keeps getting cut. The Missoula Police Department is involved. The neighborhood has been instructed to call 911 if the gate is open as it makes a record.

Gwen stated the Osprey have been good neighbors and she just wants to work on straightening a few of the issues out.

Mayor Engen said he appreciated the committee's advocacy and that his door is always open if any committee member wants to speak to him.

Respectfully submitted,

Melani Best

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