

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

August 2, 2019

- 1) **USS Billings** – Mark your calendar! Watch the [#USNAVY](#) commission for future [#USSBillings](#) [#LCS15](#) LIVE at 10 a.m. this Saturday, August 3 <https://t.co/SYWviP8TB8>
- 2) **NextGEN** – Tuesday afternoon I presented to a dozen members of NextGEN. I encouraged them to build relationships with community leaders, communicate regularly with elected officials (not only when you want something or are dissatisfied), apply for board seats and run for office. It is encouraging to see their enthusiasm for Billings. They expect us to continue investing in our community for a brighter future.
- 3) **Coulson Park Picnic** – Thanks to all who attended the picnic in Coulson Park. The collaboration with BSED is extremely helpful and I appreciate their acknowledgment that park development is a key component to retaining and attracting a strong workforce. We are on a tight timeline (May 2020) to complete the masterplan and break ground, utilizing the grant proceeds awarded.
- 4) **Montana League of Cities & Towns (MCLT) Convention** – Please let Wynnette know ASAP if you will be attending the fall conference, so far six have registered. As host, it is important that we have a strong showing of our elected officials. The conference is October 2-4 with no travel or overnight stay expenses it couldn't be more convenient. Even if you can only attend part of the conference, I encourage you to register. This is a great Opportunity to learn and share ideas with your peers throughout the state.
- 5) **Yesterday's email regarding our Forestry Division** – *About two month ago I contacted Steve from the Urban Forestry Division of the Parks Division about a park tree that had grown at an angle onto an area of our yard where our garden is located. Steve came out the next day to see the tree. He agreed with me that the tree was a problem and had grown onto our property. The next day another Steve and an Alex showed up to remove the tree. They not only removed the tree, but also the debris that accumulated as a result of the removal. I was totally impressed and will be mailing out a donation to the Parks Department which I hope will be used to add more trees to our city parks, especially South Park. My thanks and kudos to Steve and his team for an excellent job. Sincerely, Paula Schilke.*
- 6) **Attached is a letter of praise on job performance** - it is nice to share some good news.
- 7) **Additional information for the 510 Pemberton Lane Project –**
 - A. Coffee Kiosk: The property owner, initially came to the city with the plan for a coffee kiosk on the site. The coffee kiosk was determined to fall under a temporary use permit which is typical of our historical treatment of these types of situations. Public Works (PW) reviewed the temporary use permit and required access improvements to the site. If the required improvements had increased the impervious area of the lot by more than 2,500 sq. ft., the property owner would have been required to submit a building permit which would have triggered the site development section of city code. The improvements were less than that so nothing more than the temporary use permit was required.

B. Fence Permit: The next action the owner took was to obtain a fence permit. The fence permit was approved by Planning and a fence permit does not trigger the site development section of code.

C. Gravel the area inside fence: The next action was to request permission to gravel the area for use as storage for RV/boats. Changing the surface of a property from dirt to gravel does not trigger site development. Gravel storage behind a fence is allowed. PW does not have a way to require off-site improvements at this point unless it triggers the site development code by adding at least 2,500 sq. ft. of impervious area.

Development Agreement

The property owner submitted a storm drain report to ensure that he did not negatively impact the neighbors and intends to implement the suggestions of the report. Second, the property owner agreed to enter into a Development Agreement (DA) to try to line out a plan that would help show the city and the neighborhood that he is serious about improving that lot. The goal of PW staff was to set timelines where improvements would be made. If that area remains as a storage space, this ensures that off-site improvements will get done within four years (two years for landscaping) which they would not without the development agreement. If it develops into buildings as part of property owners plan, the off-site improvements per city code will be completed at that time. The trigger for improvements is whichever occurs first. The off-site improvements are at a minimum, curb, gutter, potential street widening, and sidewalk on all three sides of the lot. If the DA does not get approved, he will still be able to use the space as enclosed, gravel storage and there will not be an agreement in place to require off-site improvements at some time

Pemberton Lane

It came to our attention when the addressing got messed up that the streets on both the north and south of this property are called Pemberton Lane. We are looking at whether the north Pemberton Lane should be renamed. The street now transitions from Pemberton to Lake Elmo to Rolling Hills so we will review options for renaming that section. It may be advantageous before development occurs on this section of Pemberton to clear up the issue. Street name changes do go to council for approval.

Easement

There was an easement signed with the county to allow access at the turn around as long as it's needed. Based on our review of the intersection, there is no reason why Pemberton (south) cannot be completed and tied in to Pemberton (north). Looking at the right of way and the sight distance, it is unclear to staff why that road was closed and the turn-around added. Staff will do a design of the intersection and then pave the connection. The easement will then be null as the turn-around will not be needed.

8) **27th Street Improvements Project delayed until late September 2019** – When construction starts, contractors will begin on the south end of 27th Street (near the I-90 Interstate) with concrete, sidewalk and lighting work and will move north for as long as the weather permits. There will be no pavement resurfacing work in 2019. Work will resume in the spring of 2020 and will be completed during the 2020 construction season.

The 27th Street project will maintain and improve the condition of the road and extend the service life and quality of the street through downtown Billings. It includes resurfacing of three miles of asphalt on 27th Street between the 27th Street Bridge over I-90 on the south end to just before the roundabout at Airport Road on the

north end. The project will also improve overall safety by increasing ADA accessibility to the downtown sidewalks, adding a left-turn arrow for the left-turn at 27th Street and Montana Avenue, improving and upgrading signage, and upgrading existing signal systems and lighting in the project area.

If you would like direct weekly construction updates on the 27th Street Improvement project, text “27thstreet” to 555888, or email 27thstreetbillings@kljeng.com. There is also a construction hotline that will be able to answer frequently asked questions and/or take a message: 1-800-239-8308. You may also visit the project website at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvo/27thstreetimprovements/> Becky Bey (406)247-2907.

9) Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces/Presentations etc.

- a. August 8-9 Global Leadership Summit Telecast, sponsored by Harvest Church and hosted at MSUB Petro Theater. I have attended this conference several times over the past decade and found it to be one of the best and definitely the most cost effective high quality leadership conference. The conference is 9:30 – 5:45 Thursday and 9:30 – 4:30 Friday. Using the Harvest Priority Code – GLS19TEAM allows you to register online for \$119. You can also register onsite Thursday morning. Information and online registry at <https://www.glsbillings.com/>

Have a great weekend.

Thanks!



People's Community Outreach

P O Box 21556
Billings, MT 59104

City of Billings Parks, Recreation & Public Lands
Mike Pigg, Park Superintendent
390 North 23rd Street
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Mr. Pigg,

I wish to commend your Park Supervisor Cole McQuillan, for the way he handled our problem this past Saturday July 27th, 2019.

We had our "Picnic in the Park" event at South Park on Saturday. However, on Friday we had several things happen and I was not able to get to your office to pick up a key for Saturday. I spoke with Mr. McQuillan on Friday night and he was courteous and friendly and said he would have someone get the electricity boxes open for us for the next morning.

The next day I had to call him again as we had another problem come up. Again, he was very polite. He gave me the number of the person that was on duty for that day.

At the end of the day I tried to call the number Mr. McQuillan had given me a few time and also the afterhours numbers as when we were closing up the electrical boxes one of them we could not close as someone closed the lock and we did not have the key to unlock it and close box correctly. After an hour of trying to get someone I call Mr. McQuillan again, he was so courteous and helpful.

I feel that Cole McQuillan went above and beyond his job that day for us. I had to write you and share that this young man is very professional in every phone call and helped us with some stressful moments. He is again, an asset to your organization, and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bonogofsky
Chair
People's Community Outreach
(406) 850-9607