

1 March 2017

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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cc to B.C.C.

Robert M. Coon

President, Ravalli County Park Board

215 S. 4th Street, Suite F

Hamilton MT 59840

Subject: "Hillcrest County Park"

Mr. Coon

Knowing too well that I am not very proficient at verbally expressing myself, I believe I can best represent those of us who have a vested interest in "The Park" by providing for your review & retention, if you so choose, a copy of my record of "The Park" beginning in the Spring of 1991 when we voluntarily assumed responsibility for its upkeep, based on the precedent that the County paid the water bill.

Since that time, those of us (each household) directly bordering on The Park, contribute yearly to cover the mowing & upkeep. This statement of work has been voluntary. (A debt of gratitude is owed to Tom Chelton for the sixteen years leading up to the installation of the underground sprinkler system, a County cost-saving measure spearheaded by Al Houston) throughout which he dedicated countless hours manually mowing sprinklers &

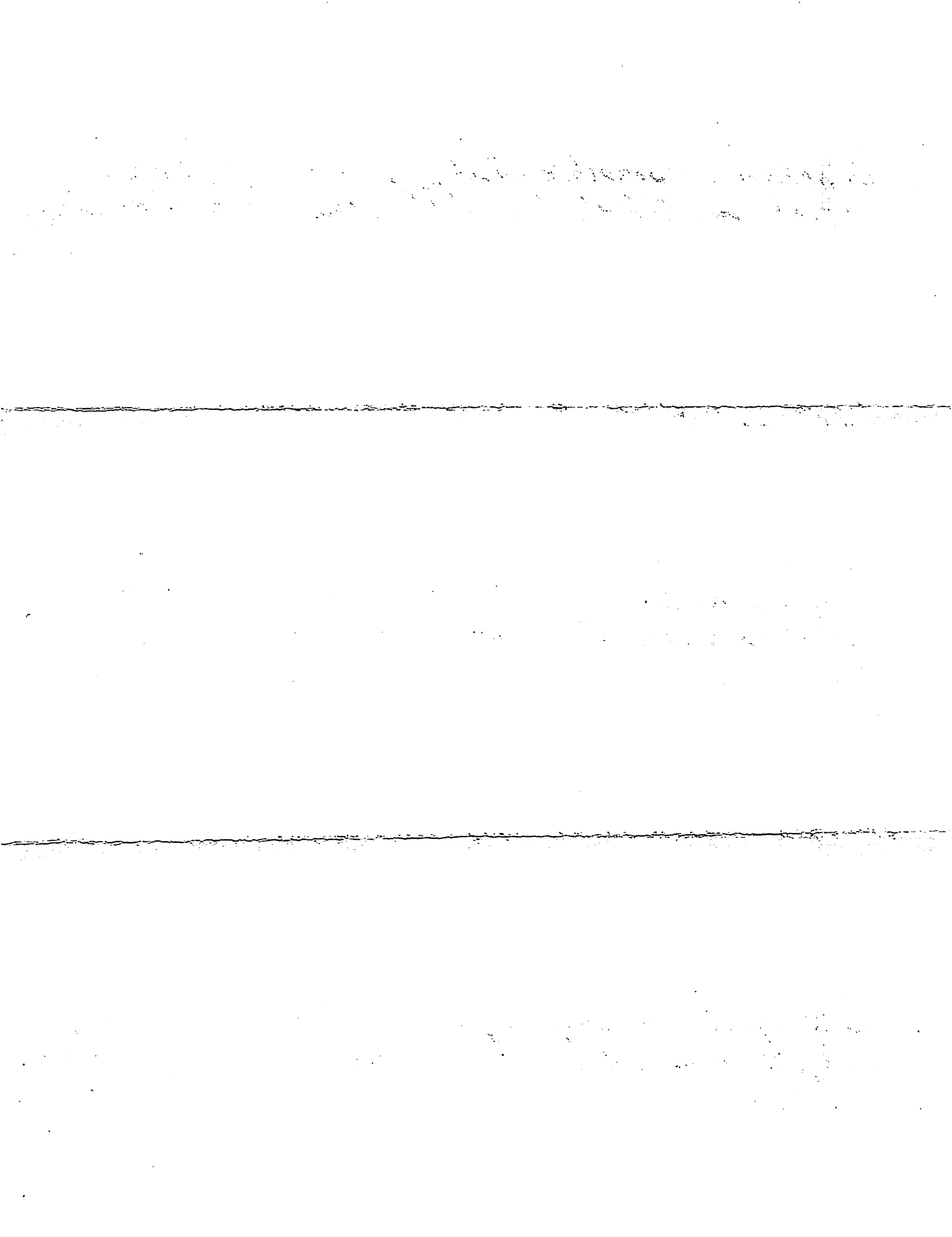
buses throughout the summer, to keep it watered. He was on call 24/7 & a lot of teenagers, growing up in the neighborhood knew it.

You will find in the later minutes of the Park Board Meeting, 5 to 10 min approximating the installation of the underground sprinkler system, at which you were in attendance.

The origin of the Park goes back before my time, to when Bill Houston subdivided the property. The County has access to those legal records, as well as the record relating to the Probate Commissioners being called to task for advertising the sale of it along with similar tracts of land, required by law to be liquidated for parks when the land was subdivided.

In going thru the files, note one occasion over the years, where repair of the water system, involving excavation, was required. The work was done by the County & the City, negotiated by then County Commissioner (Alan Chapman). The County did the excavation work & the City covered the cost of the repair of their water system.

Which brings us up to now. As you are aware, for over two years the water hydrant (in the park) has been leaking (profusely). And, as you also know, Tom Bischoff, our



of concern for the water usage for which the City bills, the County has been trying for over two years to get the responsible utility to address the problem. If the City of Hamilton doesn't employ a licensed plumber, there are many qualified & available who would welcome the work.

The trees were donated by Terry Brough (live in the beginning) & planted with the combined efforts of All Houston, Terry Brough's daughter, Tom Mallin, my husband Norm Foster & all the little kids.

We take pride in The Park & the enjoyment it provides us. We have been privileged to watch two generations of neighborhood kids, & in Tom's case, the beginning of a third, growing up playing in it. It may come as a surprise to many, but little kids will occupy themselves for hours with nothing more than what nature provides them, & a couple trees to play under. As per John Ormiston, "This is a County Park, small, surrounded by roads well maintained & about 1/3 of an acre." (Park Board Meeting, 5/10/06, Minute Summary) It is a remnant of uncluttered open space.

With regard to future management of The Park, my only suggestion would be repair of the hydrant & cut back on watering to coincide with Tom Birchel's recommendations over the past two years, based

in his assessment of mounding conditions. I ask
only that you continue to work with him in lower-
ing the water usage & its cost to the County.

In closing, I want to clarify that I was in
no way questioning your authority when I
ask the County Road Department who told them
they could not put sand in the park.

Respectfully,

Steve L. Jansen

11/16/83

Copy to:

Russell County

Commissioner

W. H. H. H.