

CITY'S TOURIST PARK OPERATION IS ABANDONED

Committee of Board Says Billings Has Been Operating Illegally for 10 Years.

After an uproarious session which saw charges and counter-charges hurled by opposing factions, the board of park commissioners late Wednesday decided to abandon the municipal tourist park in which the city has a \$12,000 investment.

The board acted on the recommendation of a committee which made the finding that the city has been operating the tourist park illegally since it was started 10 years ago, and that to continue operation might lay the city open to court action.

A statement was put on foot to dispose of the equipment which the city now owns at the tourist park. Other business included appointment of summer employees in the park.

Prime movers in the demand for the city to get out of the tourist park business were three operators of private tourist cabin establishments. These were Raymond Brown, attorney, who operates El Campo, East, and El Campo, West, both outside the city limits; Joseph H. Sader, operator of Sibley's Modern Tourist Cottage camp, 1825 First avenue north, and J. Henry Noble, attorney and owner of a number of tourist cabins located across the street from the municipal tourist park, in the 1200 block of Sixth avenue north. Both the Sader and Noble properties are within the city limits.

Extending the city's operation of a tourist park were Fred Burstead, one of the original promoters of the project; Mrs. Mary McCormick, for the last few years the park's supervisor, and Max Cecilia Katschinski, who operates Amigo Courts, 671 North Twenty-fourth street, a private tourist camp.

What started as a quiet hearing swelled into a verbal barrage with one charge being made that the municipal tourist camp had steadily been losing revenue and a counter-accusation that one private tourist camp harbored too many bed bugs.

Prior to the meeting Mr. Brown had sent letters to Mayor C. J. Williams, president of the board, and to other members of the board in which he stated that in his belief the city was operating a private business without sanction of the state legislature. His letter quoted various legal cases, immediately after the letter was read openly. Mr. Brown appeared personally and stated that he had understood the board contemplated continuing business on the basis of S. B. 102. He said that this bill permitted only a municipally operated or certain limited business, and that by no stretch of the imagination

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

Park Commission Abandons Tourist Park as RB Argues It May Be Illegal

Clipped By:



seabix1

Wed, Apr 1, 2020