

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**

**MINUTES**

**Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: May 6, 2013**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Ray Sanders

**Members of the Board not in attendance:**

Pete Woll was not in attendance.

**Also in attendance:**

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Haily Hoff, Clerk

**Others Present:**

Jeff Hutten – Kila Advisory

Tamara Hutten – Kila Advisory

Jennifer Drew – Lakeside Advisory

Jonathan Meyers – Bigfork

Lisa Cloutier – Bigfork

Paul Mutascio – Bigfork

Clifford Kipp – Montana Conservation Corps/Foys to Blacktail Trails

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation, was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana, on May 6, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the April 1, 2013 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

**Jim Buechle made a motion to approve the April 1, 2013 board minutes.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

**There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.**

**Public Comment**

Paul Mutascio asked if the Sliter Park bathrooms would be open over Memorial Day weekend. Jed Fisher gave him an affirmative answer.

**Foys/Herron Advisory Report**

Clifford Kipp reported that the fifty acre land transfer to Herron Park was completed last week. He also spoke with the Flathead Combined Training Association about relocating their shed to the south end of the parking lot. Discussion ensued regarding the utility hookups at the current site. Superintendent Fisher mentioned they could possibly be utilized to illuminate the projected kiosk. Gordon Jewett will visit the site to assess the options.

### **Foys to Blacktail Trails**

Clifford Kipp distributed a new version of the trail maps to the board. Printed under the legend is graphic with a caption that reads, "Keep dogs under control and on a leash". This measure was taken in an attempt to raise awareness of the leash law in place. Approximately 5,000 copies were distributed within the last six months and they anticipate printing another batch next year.

National Trails Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Individuals from the Montana Conservation Corps, Rotary International, and the general public will volunteer their time to help dress up trails, pick up dog waste, etc.

Jed Fisher complimented those involved in this ongoing project and thanked Mr. Kipp for his continued support and dedication.

### **Sliter Park Permit Request – Bigfork Whitewater 2013 / Bigfork Chamber of Commerce**

Superintendent Fisher gave a brief overview of the historical issues that have plagued Sliter Park during the Whitewater Festival in prior years.

Paul Mutascio introduced himself as the President of the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork. As a community, they agree that it is time to move this festival in a new direction to eliminate future problems. Mr. Mutascio expressed that their focus is to help improve the social and economic health the Bigfork community. This group continues to donate considerable amounts of time and money into improving the area downtown as a whole. Sliter Park is considered an asset to this community and they would like to improve the reputation and recreate Whitewater Festival into a more family oriented event. Mr. Mutascio requests that the groups in Bigfork receive equal treatment and consideration. Lisa Cloutier pointed out that she is only trying to raise enough money to cover the park user fees and does not anticipate making a profit. Establishing order and security is their mission this year.

Superintendent Fisher explained the county attorneys have always discouraged the approval of vending on county property, alcohol or otherwise. The Bigfork Community Open Container Act has been in place since the Flathead County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 513A in 1990. With alcohol service becoming more popular in community events, it is possible that the current commissioners will revisit this resolution. Paul Nichol of the Flathead County Attorney's office did advise that approval of any function in direct conflict with this resolution would be illegal.

Chairman Sanders stated that there is no action this board can take to make any changes to this issue.

**Clyde Fisher made a motion to review the current resolution and forward it to the Commissioners with no recommendation or comments.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

**There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.**

### **Herron Park Kiosk & Redesign of Parking Lot at Herron**

A request was received for the construction of a signage kiosk at Herron Park. Funding for this structure has been secured through Plum Creek Foundation grant dollars. The proposed site currently holds the FCTA storage shed. There was discussion regarding the need for improved signage of the Foy's to Blacktail Trails system. It was suggested that that Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett visit the site to assess maintenance requirements. A fundraising thermometer will be placed near the kiosk site.

**Elise Robocker made a motion to approve the request and placement of the signage kiosk.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

**There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion carried.**

### **Bigfork Sports Groups & Use of Parks**

Flathead County Parks and Recreation staff members met with contacts from Bigfork based recreation groups pertaining to park usage in the Bigfork area. There is a lot of use in these parks with very little fees collected. This has been a difficult issue for a number of years. The level of service provided to these parks will not continue without a different arrangement.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Report**

Gordon Jewett and Steve Robinson met with Eric Hansen and Karen Mischke. Curlyleaf Pondweed is now a high priority for their group and they would like the Flathead County Weed District to oversee enforcement. It was suggested that the District also map areas, mail letters and collect signatures from landowners authorizing treatment on private land. Superintendent Fisher stated that Commissioner Holmquist sees these actions as a liability. Mrs. Holmquist feels that enforcement is not possible for these species at this time because there is currently no mandate at the State level. Weed districts statewide will struggle in this area until functional legislature and funding mechanisms are developed by the Montana Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

### **Bigfork Advisory Report**

Ed Blackler suggested that the lease at Sliter Park be transferred from the Parks Department to the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork. Superintendent Fisher stated that Pacificorp may need a government agency to hold the lease but encouraged them to explore this possibility. It would eliminate many of the issues that they are currently facing. Mr. Blackler also addressed a safety concern off Holt Drive. Discussion followed pertaining to the responsibility of roadside areas. It was suggested that he contact Chuck Hunt or Warren Ely of Flathead Wildlife to design a solution to present to the Flathead County Road Department as it is a right-of-way issue.

### **Kila Advisory Report**

Jeff Hutten reported that they had a cleanup day over the weekend and are currently concentrating on downtown, Kila Road and Rails to Trails. Nominations for advisory members are currently underway. This advisory board is in the process of prioritizing available funding sources and will explore the possibly of interpretative signs.

### **Lakeside Advisory Report**

Jennifer Drew is planning another 10 years and under tennis event this summer. It will take place in July or August. It was reported that there are weeds growing through the barriers under the playground equipment at Ben Williams Park. Assistant Superintendent Jewett stated that individuals from Flathead Industries will have a strong presence in the Lakeside community parks and will be performing general clean up duties. All bark at Volunteer Park will be replaced.

### **Middle Forks Advisory Committee**

There was no one present from the Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

### **Other Business**

Fisher stated that he is continuing to focus on the development of a gymnasium. An article was printed in Sunday's newspaper that should raise awareness of the needs in our community. Support is anticipated from local businesses. Large revenue potential is imminent with a facility of this nature and business plan is needed to proceed with private investors.

## **Adjourn**

**Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04AM.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

**There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.**

The time and place of the next regular meeting is Monday, June 3, 2013 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Resolution No. 513A – Bigfork Community Open Container Act 5-22-1990

Bruce Boody Landscape Architecture – Cost estimate and artistic rendering

Foy's to Blacktail Trails – Updated map