

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Board of Directors

Meeting Date: October 7, 2013

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All Board members were present.

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Johanna Bangeman – Lakeside Bike Path Plan

Cindy Ercoline – Kila Advisory

Tom Esch – Foy's to Blacktail Trails

Mary Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trail

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 October 7, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Pete Woll made a motion to approve the September 9, 2013 Board minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Johanna Bangeman – Lakeside Bike Path Plan

Johanna Bangeman distributed a report prepared by Robert Peccia & Associates with grant funding provided by Safe Routes To Schools with the Montana Department of Transportation. The report reviewed the need for safe walking and bicycling in the Lakeside area, targeting the Lakeside Elementary School. Currently, there is no safe place designated for walking/biking and no separation from traffic. Ms. Bangeman wanted to make the Board aware of the project and elicit their support prior to presenting it to the Commissioners.

The plan is divided into five projects.

- Project 1: \$ 25,050 Improve school drop-off/pick up area by adding sidewalks, curb extensions, speed humps and area lighting.
- Project 2: \$10,900 Develop a sidewalk from the intersection of Highway 93 and Adams Street to the school, on the north side of Adams Street.
- Project 3: \$73,200 Develop a path from the north side of the School to Bierney Creek Road.

- Project 4: \$77,600 Develop a sidewalk along the west side of Highway 93 from Bierney Creek Road to Stoner Loop.
- Project 5: \$78,200 Develop a path along Highway 93 from Lakeside Boulevard to Adams Street along the east side of Highway 93.

Total cost estimate of all projects is \$264,950.

The projects are consistent with Flathead County’s Trails Master Plan. In addition, several other long term projects were summarized.

- A path from North Lakeside Boulevard to Sunnyslope Road (just north of Mission View Terrace), estimated cost \$355,900.
- A path from the Fish Hatchery north along North Juniper Bay Road and south along Marco Bay Road.
- A path west of the School, possibly up Adams Street (concern is steep grade and maintenance of roadway during winter months).
- A network of paths within the Lakeside Area and connecting surrounding neighborhoods.

Superintendent Jed Fisher inquired about the plan for long term maintenance and was informed that the community could address it. Board member Elise Robocker and Superintendent Fisher will participate in meeting with Planning & Zoning, the Road Department, Superintendent of Schools, and the County Commissioners to establish ranking criteria to determine goals and establish the best course of action. The effort will begin with a review of the method of evaluation already existing in the Trails Master Plan.

Bigfork Advisory Report

There was no one present from Bigfork Advisory Committee. Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that a letter has been sent to the remote control folks advising them to be respectful of other park users. He also reported that there is a lot of continuing discussion regarding turning over the lease for Sliter’s Park to the community of Bigfork. Staff addressed a complaint regarding the lawn at Carlyle Johnson Park and discovered an irrigation concern that has since been resolved. Repair work involved an old panel on the well which cost \$2,000 to replace.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Foys/Herron Advisory Committee.

Foys to Blacktail Trails

Tom Esch reported a successful event at Herron Park held on September 28th – National Public Lands Day. Sixty volunteers from several community groups worked on various projects throughout the Park. The jobs performed were identified and coordinated by Montana Conservation Corps. The next event will occur on National Trails Day at the end of May or the 1st of June.

Foy's Community Forest and partners will be conducting a FireWise forestry demonstration project above Herron Park on October 24th, with tours scheduled for 8am and 10am. Participants will be taken by vehicle to the John Chase forest to observe an active forest restoration project focused on thinning for wildfire safety and forest health performed by Floyd Quiram of Quiram Logging. The slash will be sent to Stoltz Lumber Company’s new boiler and turned into electricity used by Flathead Electric Coop – a commitment to renewable energy. DNRC foresters will be on hand to explain the process and answer questions. Board member Clyde Fisher commented that Floyd Quiram does excellent work.

Approximately 120K has been raised since August and there is 280K left to raise for the purchase of Phase IV/60acres which will complete the Herron Park land acquisition. It is anticipated that the remainder of the purchase price will be in the bank by next year.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that there were many positive comments regarding the 24-hour mountain bike race and there were also some complaints.

Kila Advisory Report

Cindy Ercoline is very happy with the progress in park development over the past year and thanked the Board for their encouragement and help. The area has been brush-hogged, mowed and treated for weeds. In addition an old barbed wire fence was moved and replaced with smooth wire. Four benches are in place and there are plans to install an ADA picnic table and bicycle rack next spring. Parsons Tractor helped with the ground work and Lowes donated Quikrete. Interpretative signs are being researched and the thought is to have at least a dozen throughout the Park to provide a history walk.

As more people use the park garbage will become a concern and “Pack In Pack Out” signing will be fabricated and mounted on steel posts. Spotting scopes are still a major goal and it will be necessary to determine the best placement. A landscape architect will work on a site plan to ensure the park will be developed according to its best potential.

There are plans to have “show me” day a family fun day next spring which will be a family fun day with games and prizes.

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett will have a park sign made once the name of the park is made official.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

Mary Ruby spoke on behalf of the Gateway to Glacier group which had successful Pedals for Paths event. This included 2 bicycle rides – a 7 mile family ride and a 32 mile ride, with talks on bicycle safety. Ground breaking for the gazebo is anticipated this fall or early spring.

Request for Full Time Employment – Haily Hoff

Haily Hoff has been working 20 hours per week during the months of December – February. The workload during the busier time of year accumulates and increasing hours to a full time schedule can mitigate this. This would be an additional 260 hours per year.

Jim Buechle made a motion to change Haily Hoff’s employment status from part time to full time during the months of December, January and February.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

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

Other Business

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported the details of a truck roll-over and a chemical spill. The driver was not injured and all authorities were notified. Subsequently 12 – 15 yards of material was hauled out and replaced with new fill. The section of the road where the incident occurred will be shored up and compacted as there have been several other mishaps at this same location.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03AM.

Elise Robocker 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, November 4, 2013 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Final Report / Lakeside Elementary School / Safe Routes to School Assessment.

Brochure – Guide For Safe Walking and Bicycling In The Lakeside Area