

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 7, 2014

Members of the Board in attendance:

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

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All Board members were present.

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Karlene Kohr – Flathead Combined Training Association

Edd Blackler – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Dave Prunty – Flathead County Road Department

Alan Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trails

Clifford Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Paul Mutascio – Citizens for a Better Bigfork

Walter Kuhn – Citizens for a Better Bigfork

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors for Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana on July 7, 2014. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 19th and May 27th 2014 meetings of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Clyde Fisher made a motion to approve the May 19th and May 27th 2014 Board minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Paul Mutascio thanked Superintendent Jed Fisher and Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett for taking care of Sliter Park.

Sliter Park Agreement Discussion

Superintendent Jed Fisher reviewed the Sliter Park Agreement between Citizens for a Better Bigfork (CFBB) and Flathead County Parks and Recreation Department. The Agreement is for a one-year term ending June 30, 2015 and is cancellable by either party with thirty days written notice to the other party. CFBB agrees to contribute \$3,500 toward costs associated with operations of Sliter Park. The ultimate goal is to be fully reimbursed for all Sliter Park expenses by next year. Superintendent Fisher recommended moving forward with the Agreement.

Paul Mutascio stated that CFBB is fine with the Agreement. They would appreciate as much notice as possible for future contribution consideration. Superintendent Fisher said that information will be provided consistent with the March/April timeline for the budget.

Clyde Fisher made a motion to approve the Sliter Park Agreement.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

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

Bigfork Advisory Report

Edd Blackler reported things are running smoothly with the sports groups that use the parks. The trees at Aero Lane need to be cleaned up. Mr. Blackler stated that he had no positive or negative feedback on the other parks.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Renny Johnson of Bigfork Whitewater Festival recently gave paddleboard instructions at the Bigfork dock. This dock is a County right-of-way and not a County park. Dave Prunty from the Road Department stated that he issued an encroachment permit to the vendor. In addition, Mr. Johnson completed a Permit Application and a Facility User Agreement with the Flathead County Parks and Recreation Department. Bill Murray, who is the neighbor to the property, was upset that he had not been notified; however, Superintendent Fisher stated that the Department does not provide notice of park use for any of the County parks. The Board recommended that a letter be sent to Mr. Murphy explaining the policy.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

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

Karleen Kohr of Flathead Combined Training Association (FCTA) reported that a meeting was held at Herron Park to discuss the conflicting use between cyclists and equestrians. Representatives from FCTA, Flathead County Parks & Recreation Department, Foys/Herron Advisory Committee, and Foys to Blacktail Trails discussed possible solutions. As a result, a small but unobtrusive gate was installed just off the trail at a strategic location to prevent cyclists from riding down the hill into the area used by equestrians. Ms. Kohr was pleased to report that all groups came together for a concensus and it worked well that day.

Two FCTA events were cancelled due to footing and weather conditions. Board member Elise Robocker stated that the public appreciates the concern for the park. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett stated that the entire meadow area will be hayed.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Cliff Kipp reported the success of several past events hosted at Herron Park. The kiosk construction looks great and the group is working on a plaque to acknowledge donors. In addition, they are working on interpretive information regarding the history of the park. Flathead Fat Tire is interested in hosting a workshop to educate people about trail etiquette between user groups, in particular cyclists and equestrians. The delay is due to insurance coverage. Superintendent Jed Fisher said he would check with the County's insurance agent to see if he/she can assist.

FTBT is reviewing and working on enhancement of Herron Park signs. Mr. Kipp distributed a sample of a small sign with icons regarding trail etiquette.

Superintendent Fisher questioned a recent comment he heard about dredging Birch Creek, located in the Herron Park meadow. The concern is that "fixing" a problem in one area will cause a problem in another location. Karleen Kohr of FCTA will check into it and get back to Mr. Fisher.

There was discussion regarding the daisy chain of gate locks and proper use to avoid someone getting locked out.

Finally, Kipp reported a 30K RTP grant, with 50-60K funds needed to complete purchase of the final phase of land for Herron Park.

Kila Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Committee. Cindy Ercoline sent an email regarding a request for additional and ongoing maintenance of an area she had brush-hogged. The Board determined that the Parks Department should maintain the area as agreed upon in the original plan.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

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

Alan Ruby of Gateway to Glacier Trails reported a successful bicycle/rafting event and upcoming Brew Fest this Saturday, July 12th – the largest brew fest in the State. The Coram to West Glacier trail work is fully funded and will be built next spring. The group is now working on a Columbia Falls trail. Mr. Ruby thanked the Board members for all of their help and hopes to see them for the Brew Fest.

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that it is important to have a good plan in place to be sure maintenance is handled. A planning meeting will be scheduled to discuss mowing, vandalism & other concerns.

The Road Department is scheduled to work on the rough gravel and potholes at Belton Stage Park.

Other Business

Weed #2 Court Orders

Michele Haarr reported that files of four landowners have been forwarded to the County Attorney's office for a second court order. This court order will allow Flathead County to enter upon the landowner's property to take corrective action to control noxious weeds.

Bigfork Advisory Board Appointment Request – Walter Kuhn

The Board reviewed letters of recommendation for the appointment of Walter Kuhn to the Bigfork Advisory Committee. Edd Blackler stated he would welcome Mr. Kuhn's presence on the Committee. A decision was held, pending review of the current process and procedures.

Paul Mutascio told the Board that there is no reason to delay in appointing Walter Kuhn to the Bigfork Parks Advisory Committee. Mr. Kuhn is one of the better business leaders in the community and CFBB would like a larger contingent for the Advisory Board. Mr. Mutascio encouraged the Board not to delay a vote.

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33AM.

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, August 4, 2014 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Sliter Park Agreement