

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: August 25, 2014**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

Ray Sanders, Elise Robocker, Pete Woll

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

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

Bruce Boody – Landscape Architect/Volunteer Park

Margaret Davis – Driver Spoon LLC/Volunteer Park

Bruce Ennis – Driver Spoon LLC/Volunteer Park

Cindy Ercoline – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory

Sharon Hopkins – Bigfork Advisory

Clifford Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Walter Kuhn – Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork

David Link – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory

Paul Mutascio – Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork

Linda Tutvedt – Flathead Combined Training Association

**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 August 25, 2014. The meeting convened at 8:33AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the July 7, 2014 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 July 7, 2014 Board minutes.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**Volunteer Park – Transfer of Park Expansion Property to Flathead County/ Documents for Signature**

Margaret Davis reviewed the history of the purchase and development of Volunteer Park in Lakeside, which began in the summer of 2013. In a special meeting of the Flathead County Weed/Parks Board on May 27, 2014, the Board endorsed approval of the Volunteer Park land donation. Ms. Davis gave credit to all of the contractors and individuals who contributed to the development and construction of the project. The expansion includes the addition of approximately 82' of lakeshore frontage and 30' of Highway 93 frontage to the existing park. Flathead County Commissioners and the Parks Board are invited to a short informal opening at 8:00AM August 27, 2014 at the Park.

Bruce Ennis stated that much of the drawings for the current expansion were taken from 2009 drawings when the possibility of expansion was initially considered. All plans and documents promised at the May 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting have been delivered. All of the work is done and it is time to forward the project documents to the Commissioners for their approval.

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that all documents have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's office. Board Chairman Ray Sanders and Board member Pete Woll thanked Mr. Ennis and Ms. Davis for their generosity in developing and donating such a beautiful and well used park.

**Elise Robocker made a motion to endorse Commissioner approval of the documents required for the transfer of Volunteer Park expansion to Flathead County: Agreement for Transfer of Property Restrictions on Use and Reversion and the Grant Deed.**

**Pete Woll seconded the motion.**

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

### **Lakeside Advisory Report**

This agenda item was postponed until later in the meeting.

### **Bigfork Advisory Report**

Sharon Hopkins of the Bigfork Advisory Committee and Paul Mutascio, President of Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork, recommended approval of Walter Kuhn's appointment to the Bigfork Advisory Committee.

**Pete Woll made a motion to appoint Walter Kuhn to the Bigfork Advisory Committee.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

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

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported plans to move forward with an irrigation project for the area adjacent to the Bigfork dock this fall or next spring. Paul Mutascio said he has heard comments regarding the need for a new dock and Superintendent Fisher explained this would be a Road Department concern. It was suggested that community fundraising may help.

The use of Sliter Park for a type of farmers' market was discussed. The Board needs to consider having vendors in the Park.

The Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork has submitted a \$3500 contribution toward the maintenance and upkeep of Sliter. Mr. Fisher thanked them for the contribution.

### **Foys/Herron Advisory Report**

Several Flathead Combined Training Association events were cancelled due to inclement weather and lack of mowing. Linda Tutvedt with FCTA discussed concerns regarding haying the meadow at Herron, stating that the Park should be used as a park. Superintendent Jed Fisher gave a brief history of the evolution from grazing of the meadow to haying in order to provide feed for abused and /or abandoned horses taken care of by the Department. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reviewed the mowing schedule and will come up with a price to have it mowed each year in the spring as soon as the ground conditions will allow it.

### **Foys to Blacktail Trails Report**

Cliff Kipp reported that 98% of the fundraising to complete the final land purchase for Herron Park expansion is in place. There are several grant requests submitted and they are waiting to hear back. There is 36K left to raise. It is anticipated that the purchase could be completed this year.

An equestrian and bicycle workshop will take place next spring. The newly installed fence and gate are working as planned in keeping cyclists away from the equestrian area. The 24-Hours of Flathead bike race is on September 30<sup>th</sup> and National Public Lands Day is September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The kiosk project is almost complete, and FTBT is working on historical and geological information. Trail signing appears to be working well with a good symmetry between the map and trails. The potential construction of an additional trail was discussed that would go from the overlook going west toward the “scary stump”.

### **Kila Advisory Report**

Cindy Ercoline thanked Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett and his staff for additional and ongoing maintenance of Kila Park. David Link reported that a landscape architect has been engaged and has information to finalize plans which should be available for the next Board meeting. Fundraising may begin once the plans are approved by the Board. There was discussion regarding the need to raise the Rails to Trails pathway by 2 inches.

### **Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report**

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

### **Lakeside Advisory Report**

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported on the disrepair of the tennis courts at Ben Williams, which are cracking and heaving. Lakeside Community Development Foundation will need to use their maintenance funds to fix it. Dead trees need to be removed.

There was discussion about creating additional parking for the boat launch.

The need for a park host at Volunteer Park was discussed. This is a very heavily used park and periodic vandalism occurs along with graffiti. Volunteers from the community or possibly from Flathead Valley Community College will be considered.

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett commended Bruce & Maggie that forethought that was given to maintenance needs when the park was designed, to include such things as a metal sleeves over irrigation pipes to help eliminate punctures and leaking to special paint in the restrooms to make graffiti removal easier. There are two large dogs owned by a mystery lady who sits and watches them chew up buoys. Anyone observing this activity is encouraged to obtain a vehicle license plate number and report it to the Department.

### **Other Business**

Flathead County Gymnasium – Superintendent Jed Fisher

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the County Commissioners have given their support to build a gym for the Parks and Recreation Department. When money was found to improve the jail, he suggested that we do something to keep people out of jail by providing an opportunity to recreate. The estimated cost to build the facility is \$3.2 million. The County CIP fund will provide \$1.5 million, with the balance being the responsibility of the Department to fundraise. The outreach has been started and a task force will be formed. The current building site under discussion is north of the Fairgrounds, which would be deeded to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Fairgrounds would be able to use the gym to showcase events, which would provide additional income to help support both Parks and Recreation, which have been on a static budget since 1997, in spite of an increase in the number of parks and activity in the recreational programs.

There was no other business.

**Adjourn**

**Elise Robocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55AM.**

**Pete Woll seconded the motion.**

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

The Board meeting on September 8, 2014 has been cancelled. The time and place of the next regular meeting is **Monday, October 6, 2014** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

**Documents Submitted to the Board:**

No documents were submitted to the Board.