

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: May 4, 2015

Members of the Board in attendance:

Clyde Fisher, Ray Sanders, Elise Robocker, Jim Buechle

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Pete Woll

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Charline Payne – Flathead Combined Training
Carol Bibler – Foy's to Blacktail Trails
Cliff Kipp – Foy's to Blacktail Trails
Linda Tutvedt – Foy's/Herron Advisory Committee
Elaine Wilson – Lakeside Advisory Committee

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 May 4, 2015. The meeting convened at 8:32am, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 6, 2015 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Elise Robocker made a motion to approve the April 6, 2015 Board minutes.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Bigfork Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Bigfork Advisory Committee.

Foy's/Herron Advisory Report

Charline Payne spread the word for equestrians to stay off the soft spots in the meadow and asked for a sign to be placed adjacent to the meadow to let others know. The first show is May 30th-31st and jumps will be set up May 10th.

Foy's to Blacktail Trails Report

Cliff Kipp reported there is a candidate for the summer internship at Herron Park. A meeting will be held Wednesday evening regarding the Plum Creek easement.

The 2012 RTP grant has \$9,880 in remaining funds. Work will be scheduled as soon as possible in order to receive reimbursement prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Carol Bibler distributed photos of a proposed 18” high natural rock bench to be placed at Herron Park which will recognize those who donated \$2500 or more toward the land acquisition. Foys To Blacktail Trails would take full responsibility for the placement, care, and maintenance of the bench. While the Board agreed it was a tasteful design, a County-wide policy needs to be developed so that all parks are treated consistently. There will be a meeting with the County Attorney, Commissioners, and the County insurance agent to discuss the concern.

Mr. Kipp thanked the staff for mowing the meadow and offered help if anything was needed in the future. The Herron Hammer is being held on May 17th and National Trails Day is June 6th.

Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Committee. There will be a fundraising event for Kila Community Park at the Hampton Inn. Interested parties are advised to stop by the Hampton from 8am-6pm or visit www.givelocalflathead.org to make an online tax-deductible contribution.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

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

Lakeside Advisory Report

Elaine Wilson reported that the group is working on a USTA grant to help with resurfacing the Ben Williams tennis courts. She is hoping that the County can put resources to providing a water line by the courts and to provide routine maintenance. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett indicated that the water concern is in the 2017 budget.

There is interest in using the tennis courts for pickleball and USTA is being consulted for any potential conflict.

County Gymnasium Report

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the first gymnasium focus group meeting took place with a good turnout. The Daily Interlake published an article shortly thereafter. He reviewed potential building sites. In addition, the Majestic Valley Arena offered land in the area where they are located. The old Walmart building is currently being studied for potential use by the County Jail. It is cement block construction with a caged area for a Sally Port. The building has a kitchen area and good storage along with sufficient space to house prisoners and space to expand. This would provide a big savings for the County, which, in turn, could be used to support gymnasium efforts.

Weed Department Report

Superintendent Jed Fisher reviewed a donation request from Brenda Guzman, who organizes the annual Weed Rodeo. The Department has contributed to this effort in the past.

Jim Buechle moved to approve a donation for the Weed Rodeo in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Education and Compliance Officer Steve Robinson reported on four topics:

- 1) Compliance is continuing to follow up with Burlington Northern regarding infestation along the main and secondary lines from Columbia Falls to Kalispell and out to Wild Geese Gardens. The Railroad Safety Board has been involved and has sent an investigator out. Kochia is 4’-5’ tall.

- 2) Mission Mountain sub-lines continue to be infested with noxious weeds and present a safety hazard. Mr. Robinson has followed up with both entities to motivate them toward weed control efforts. Rumble Spraying will do the main lines and some private parcels.
- 3) Property west of town was discussed. This property continues to be a high profile case due to its size and the location of noxious weeds that are visible from the highway. The banker/lien holder has agreed to spray along Stone Ridge Rd and along the bike path. The property owner has one year for right of redemption in the foreclosure process.

A recent meeting was held with the County Attorney to review the enforcement process and status. There is a 90% response rate from landowners who receive a noxious weed notice with 10% being problematic if the property is vacant, if the landowners live out of the area, and/or if there is a post office box. The Department continues to refine procedures to minimize expense and be as effective as possible.

Other Business

- Park Rental Policy Regarding Organized Groups of Fewer Than 20 People

There was discussion regarding the need for organized groups of fewer than 20 people to obtain permits for park rentals.

Jim Buechle moved to require organized groups of fewer than 20 people to obtain permits for park use. Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58am.

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 1, 2015** at 8:30am in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

FTBT Donor Recognition Bench

Correspondence Dated 3-18-15 Brenda Guzman Regarding Donation Requests for the Weed Rodeo