

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: June 1, 2015

Members of the Board in attendance:

Ray Sanders, Jim Buechle, Elise Robocker, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Clyde Fisher

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Russ Barnett – Neighbor at Blue Grouse Park, Little Bitterroot Lake

Cindy Ercoline – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Committee

Sharon Hopkins – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Cliff Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Mary Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trails

Linda Tutvedt – Foys/Herron Advisory Committee

Francis VanRinsum – S-2 Engine Park in Somers

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 June 1, 2015. The meeting convened at 8:31AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 4, 2014 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 May 4, 2015 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.

Insurance for S-2 Engine Park in Somers – Francis VanRinsum

Francis VanRinsum reported that the S-2 engine renovation and building are complete and park development is next. The first priority is insurance coverage. Superintendent Jed Fisher indicated that this is County property and requested Board approval to phone the County's insurance agent to add to the insurance as a developed park. A complete schematic showing the engine, building and parking area is needed.

Jim Buechle moved to contact the County insurance agent to add S-2 Engine Park in Somers as a developed park.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

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

Superintendent Fisher stated that this park should be included in the County Master Plan to be properly classified in the inventory. The County owns 100' of railroad track and it is important to check property lines for insurance and County parkland purposes. The area needs to be surveyed to clearly delineate what is public and what is not. Planning and Zoning may assist with this effort.

Request for Gated Access to Private Property from County Park - Russ Barnett

The Parks Department plans to fence the parkland located at Blue Grouse Park on Little Bitterroot Lake. Fencing at this park has been considered and in the budget for the past 5-6 years.

Russ Barnett appeared before the Board to request a gate wide enough for vehicular access – approximately 25 feet. Mr. Barnett's property has a septic field making access to his own property impossible. If the park property is completely fenced, it would take away Mr. Barnett's only access to his property. When purchase of this property was contemplated, a title search was completed and it did not list any concerns; otherwise, it would have been a game-changer.

Superintendent Jed Fisher explained that there have been so many encroachments in parks that it was decided to fence parkland to separate public from private property. Consideration for a gate will be addressed after the County Attorney is consulted. Mr. Fisher stated that the gate in the fence on the south end of the park should have been removed once the road was put in. Fisher further indicated that if a gate is installed on the north fence, it would need to be locked and keyed access would be given to Marion police and fire for emergency purposes. If staff were involved to unlock the gate for the personal needs of the Barnetts, fees would be involved.

The neighboring property to the north has a fence that is within the park boundaries in order to accommodate extenuating circumstances of that property.

Mr. Barnett was concerned that he would want to be adequately represented in discussion with the County Attorney and wanted to be sure they take into account a grandfather clause that has existed for 62 years.

Pete Woll moved to authorize discussion of Russ Barnett's request with the County Attorney to clarify the situation for the Board.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

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

Bigfork Advisory Report

Sharon Hopkins reported that Advisory Committee member Walter Kuhn visited Sliter Park during the Whitewater Festival and all seemed to be in order. Park Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported that it was a typical Whitewater Festival event and he dealt with bathroom issues; however, there was no physical destruction and no holes in the irrigation system. Garbage was not an issue. Mr. Jewett also reported that PacifiCorp denied Whitewater Festival's camping request.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that in a recent meeting with Bigfork High School representatives, the topic of School District ownership of Carlyle Johnson Park was discussed. The current estimated value of Carlyle Johnson is approximately 400K and the idea seems to make sense as most school districts are in charge of their own fields. At this time, the topic is introductory only and no decisions have been made.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

Linda Tutvedt reported that the meadow at Herron Park is dry and it's time to remove signs requesting people stay off of the wet areas. There has been a lot of interaction between cyclists and equestrians and it appears that things are going well.

Board member Elise Robocker indicated a concern about leashed dogs being approached by dogs off leash and the potential for injury or death to unleashed dogs. Superintendent Gordon Jewett makes periodic visits to the park and will try to get the time to get deeper into the trail system to check for compliance.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Cliff Kipp rode his mountain bike on Herron trails two times recently and interacted positively with equestrians. Foys to Blacktail Trails is supplying trail etiquette information in Herron Park event packets. The recent Herron Hammer event went well with the exception of running out of toilet paper. There are 50-80 volunteers lined up for National Trails Day. The Herron Half-Marathon is June 6th and trail etiquette information will be supplied for the race packets. It is anticipated that the summer intern can help get a clearer picture of user information, as well as working on Herron Park boundary signs.

Superintendent Jed Fisher met with the County Attorney regarding an easement from Herron through Plum Creek property in order to access the Foys to Blacktail Trails system. It is hoped that a presentation will be made at the next Board meeting. Easement negotiations are going well with a lot of give and take by Plum Creek.

Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Report

Cindy Ercoline looked at the S-2 Engine Park in Somers and was able to get a lot of good ideas for development of Kila Community Park. The group participated in a recent fundraising effort which made \$2290 and came in 6th out of 59 non-profits. The total fundraising for the calendar year of 2015 is \$4,320.00. The next step is to get bids for concrete work, approximately 24' x 48' slabs and sidewalks. David Link resigned from the Advisory Committee.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

Mary Ruby reported that all CTEP applications were submitted to the State of Montana in mid-May. As soon as money is received for engineering, she will let the Board know. Paddle and Pedal for Paths is a fundraiser coming on June 20th.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that we are still working with the Kalispell Convention and Visitor Bureau for the Dragon Boat Race Permit at Volunteer Park. A meeting will be set up with Diane Medler of the KC&VB to discuss it.

County Gymnasium Report

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that focus group meetings continue and we are working on obtaining maps of potential locations to show boundaries and parking. Mr. Fisher reviewed potential building sites and indicated the Department is continuing to vet all properties and proceeding with developing a RFQ.

Weed Department Report

Long-time employee Don Roe retired after 23 years. Spray contracts are in place for the year and most of the money for State highways is already spent. All chemical purchases have been delivered.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:33AM.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

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

There will be a special meeting of the Board to discuss the fencing matter at Little Bitterroot Lake.

The time and place of the next regular meeting is **Monday, July 13, 2015** at 8:30AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Correspondence from Russ and Lindsay Barnett and Tim and Marnie Butler dated May 25, 2015.