

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 3, 2017**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

Clyde Fisher, Jim Buechle, Elise Robocker, Mary Ruby, 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:**

Walter Kuhn – Bigfork

Paul Mutascio – Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork

Bill Myers – Bayside Park & Marine Center LLC, Bigfork

Charline Payne – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Linda Tutvedt – Foys/Herron Advisory

Orrin Webber – Foys/Herron Advisory

**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 April 3, 2017. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Fisher presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 6, 2017 of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

**Jim Buechle moved to approve the March 6, 2017 Board minutes.**

**Pete Woll seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

Bill Myers owns Pointer Scenic Cruises, which is located adjacent to the Bigfork dock off of Lake Avenue. Mr. Meyers stated that Lake Avenue has been platted in Bigfork for over 100 years. He gave the history of his property ownership and of the Bigfork dock, and displayed a circa 1996 photograph and a plat map - both indicating the existence of Lake Avenue. When the dock was falling apart in the 1994/1995 time frame, Mr. Myers and several other parties contributed to its repair and have helped raise funding to do the same in subsequent years.

Meeting notes dated November 23, 2016 regarding Potential @ Lake Avenue, Grade & Improvements were read into the record. These notes have been forwarded to Commissioner Holmquist and Public Works Director David Prunty.

Myers stated several times that Lake Avenue must remain as a road and is necessary for ingress and egress to his 2 properties. Lake Avenue should not be closed and Myers stated he has a legal right to use the road, which

has been illegally blocked in the past. If the State were to abandon this road, both sides get half of it and he does not want that to happen. Myers would like to see a “win-win” workout to this concern. It was discussed several times that this matter is outside of the Parks & Recreation purview and should be taken up with the Road Department and the Commissioners.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reiterated that this is a right-of-way, not a park. He requested and received permission to have the Bigfork Advisory Report moved up on the agenda.

### **Bigfork Advisory Report**

Lake Avenue is being used as a public road because of the Bigfork dock being used by the public. There are other locations with similar road and access concerns. State law may not allow the road to be abandoned if it is a public access.

#### **Bigfork Dock – Removal of Park Sign**

The overall concern is a lot more complicated than taking down a sign. It was generally agreed that the matter needs to be reviewed by the County Attorney, the Road Department and the County Commissioners.

**Jim Buechle moved to remove the Parks & Recreation sign at the Bigfork Dock and turn the matter over to the County Attorney’s office, the Road Department and the County Commissioners.**

**Mary Ruby seconded the motion.**

**Discussion ensued regarding removal of the logo only in order to leave the rules and regulations posted. There are two signs – the upper sign indicates “Public Access” and the lower sign indicates the Parks & Recreation Rules & Regulations.**

**The motion was amended to remove the logo from the Parks & Recreation sign, leaving the Rules & Regulations in place, with the matter turned over to County Attorney’s office, the Road Department and the County Commissioners.**

**Mary Ruby seconded the amended motion.**

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

### **Weed Department Report**

**Annual Weed Rodeo Donation** – Superintendent Jed Fisher requested the Board’s consideration of a \$300 donation for the annual Weed Rodeo, which will be held in June. The rodeo takes place along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and has been hosted for several years by Brenda Guzman, the wife of a Department employee. Last year 30-50 people were launched on 5 different river sections from Essex to Blankenship. The Department has previously donated to this event.

**Jim Buechle moved to approve a \$300 donation to Brenda Guzman for the Weed Rodeo event.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

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

### **County Athletic Complex Report**

Finance Director Amy Dexter has been tasked with assisting the Department to prepare a revised business plan with new budget numbers for the Flathead County Athletic Complex, to be scaled down in size and scope. A recent meeting regarding this included Ms. Dexter, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Fairgrounds Manager Mark Campbell, and Department staff.

**Bigfork Advisory Report** – This item and subtopic were moved up on the agenda.

#### **Bigfork Dock – Removal of Park Sign**

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

Charline Payne reported the Herron Half fundraiser will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that the trail from Herron to Blacktail Mountain will be completed this year. There is still 40-50K needed.

An email received from David Girardot was distributed to the Board. Mr. Girardot has experienced several aggressive dogs at Herron, and estimates that only 5-10% of dog owners have their dogs on a leash in the park. The entire kiosk area is covered with dog feces, as well as the trails leading away from the kiosk. He would like to see strict enforcement of the leash rule at Herron, or make it a dog-free park.

Charline Payne commented that a dog park in Boulder Colorado had to be shut down due to the significant amount of dog droppings left behind.

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

Linda Tutvedt found someone who will mow Herron fields if Department staff is unavailable to perform the task. Superintendent Jed Fisher asked Ms. Tutvedt to provide a draft Cooperative Agreement, which would outline expectations such as insurance requirements, vendor payment and dates.

### **Surplus of Big Sky Park**

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that the Department will review the Parks Master Plan and suggest revisions to establish qualifications for potential surplus of selective water access sites.

### **Other Business**

Alex Hogle, a former employee of Flathead County Planning & Zoning, has been hired by Jim Watson to review the culverts at Herron Park.

### **Adjourn**

**Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54AM.**

**Mary Ruby 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, May 1, 2017** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

### **Documents Submitted to the Board:**

Meeting Notes dated November 23, 2016 from Bill Myers regarding Potential at Lake Avenue – Grade & Improvements.

Email dated March 20, 2017 from Brenda Guzman re request for Weed Rodeo donation.

Email dated March 24, 2017 from David Girardot re dogs at Herron Park.