

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: November 6, 2017

Members of the Board in attendance:

Clyde Fisher, Jim Buechle, Elise Robocker, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Mary Ruby

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Walter Kuhn – Bigfork Advisory

Char Payne – Foys to Blacktail Trails 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 November 6, 2017. The meeting convened at 8:33AM, Chairman Fisher presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 11, 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 September 11, 2017 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.

Trails Plan Update

Several trail meetings have occurred with the goal of updating the 2010 Flathead County Trails Plan. Mary Ruby is heading up the meetings, which are well attended with broad representation. She is meeting with several members of the group to make a presentation to the County Commission this morning, hence her absence from this meeting.

• **Trails Ad Hoc Advisory Committee – PATHS2**

For simplicity, the group gathering to update the plan is referred to as “PATHS2” (People, Athletics, Travel, Health, and Safety) after the PATHS group that developed the initial Trails Plan.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Walter Kuhn reported that Sliter Park and several downtown businesses were tagged with graffiti. The stage frame was marked, as well as the vaulted bathroom and the County sign. The incidents are under investigation.

The Bigfork Community Development Foundation Trust may provide funds to assist in the purchase of 5 lots by the Bigfork Inn that will provide approximately 70 – 80 additional parking spaces. Electric Avenue has 83 parking spaces along the main street. There was a recent meeting with County Administrator Mike Pence to discuss formation of an RSID (Rural Special Improvement District) to help with improvements. Paving, lights and drains are estimated to cost 250K. The first goal is property purchase, followed by improvements. Jed encouraged the group to also consider funding needs of County parks.

The new Recreational Program Manager Amanda Davey will develop Flathead County sports programs at Bigfork parks, including soccer and baseball. Programs will be similar to those at the Conrad Complex, with better control over permits, scheduling and parking.

Foys-Herron Advisory Report

Orrin Webber reported that two topics that were discussed at the recent Advisory Committee meeting – volunteer labor and weeds. The question came up about convict labor vs. any other type of volunteer labor. Weed management has been ongoing and Department staff will provide weed control on the County easements. Additional stations providing doggie bags were not installed – hopefully this will happen in the spring. The donation for equestrians was discussed because no other user group is asked to donate. Equestrian use is more maintenance intensive at the Park, involving stable clean-up and structure maintenance.

The 2 mile stretch where spotted knapweed is rampant will be discussed with Weyerhaeuser. Trails will be groomed once the weather warms a bit to settle the snow.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Charline Payne thanked the Board for their support in completing the land acquisition and easements from Herron to Blacktail. On horseback, it takes about 3.5 hours to travel from Patrick Creek to Herron, and approximately 5 hours to hike the same distance. New maps are in process and the Department will be given a ‘pre-map’ for review. Signs along the trails will state names and miles.

County Athletic Complex Report

The Department was asked to scale back the scope of the athletic complex project to 2 courts. Finance, Human Resources, and the grant writer were scheduled to meet with Department staff but the meeting was postponed due the absence of Finance.

Use of School District gyms continues to be a challenge. Jed will revisit with FVCC (Flathead Valley Community College) to determine interest in shared space.

Weed Department Report

- **Montana Code Annotated 7-22-2134 – Enforcement Spray, District Policy**

The Board reviewed a summary of landowners with enforcement history. Each landowner has already received an initial Court Order and is ready for a second Court Order, which allows the Department to provide enforcement spraying. Initially, an update of the County Weed Management Plan needs to occur, including protocol for determining properties eligible for enforcement spraying. All Court Order work is postponed until the spring which gives landowners time to comply.

DOT (Department of Transportation) work is 50% complete. Not much BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) work was done. County roads have been covered fairly well with most of the Valley floor mowed a second time. The contractor for the bypass did an inadequate job. No secondary roads were mowed because the weather was “too dry”.

Other Business

There was general discussion regarding a potential court case regarding Lake Park Addition.

The Commissioners want to see acreage used by VOAG (Vocational Agricultural) HG Robinson Center appraised and perhaps sold to the School District. The County would retain selected acreage.

Matters of the Board

There were no Matters of the Board.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:47AM.

Pete Woll 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, December 4, 2017** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.