

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: April 2, 2018

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Elise Robocker, Mary Ruby, 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:

Gabriel Dillon – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Amanda Davey – Flathead County Parks & Recreation

Sadie Hergesheimer – Flathead County Parks & Recreation

Mr. and Mrs. (Sherry) Hooker – Parents of Recreation Program Participant

Jesse Grille – Recreation Program Participant

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 2, 2018. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the March 5, 2018 meeting 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 5, 2018 Board minutes.

Mary Ruby seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Request for Reinstatement to Recreation Programs – Jesse Grilley

Jesse apologized to the Board for his actions and said he was truly sorry for what he did. He admitted he lost control and punched another player, who lost consciousness. Jed emphasized that the County programs are *recreational* sports provided by a governmental agency that is held to higher standards.

Mr. Hooker, who is the father of the victim, said that he was present to see what Board would do. Jesse was contrite; stating that he almost lost a job and thought he would miss the birth of his baby. He cannot afford to do something like that again. One Board member expressed that this behavior is unacceptable and reinstatement should be denied.

The Recreational Program Manager stated that the action was out of character for Jesse and does not think any further incidents will occur. Jed asked the victim's parents if they would feel comfortable with reinstatement.

Mr. Hooker said he did not know. He does not have issue with forgiving Jesse but stated “We are men and supposed to control ourselves; it was handled the wrong way.”

Jim Buechle moved to table the decision for a month and discuss with legal prior to making a decision.

Mary Ruby seconded the motion.

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

Foys to Blacktail Trails – Ongoing Volunteer Discussion

Jed contacted the Health Department, who will provide a hand-out packet of information. He requested safety information and is tracking down training videos for volunteers. There has been no feedback about whether it is acceptable to train the trainers who are not on staff. The Risk Assessment Committee emphasized that volunteers need to sign in each time, with specific allowable tasks, and project boundaries that are organized and structured. The Department needs to design the program and submit it to both insurance and the Safety Committee. Approximately 100 people can fit in the shop. Gabe Dillon will post the volunteer training session on Facebook – April 12th from 7-9PM at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, in the shop.

Gabe is trying to work out having additional meetings with heads of groups to discuss volunteering. He received a phone call from a potential volunteer who attended the PATHS public meeting, whose name was added to the volunteer database. There is an interest in doing spring clean-up and approximately 20 or so folks from Applied Materials are willing to help. A tentative date has been set for April 14th from 9-11AM at Herron Park. The scope of work would most likely be to pick up dog poop within a 200 yard radius from the trailhead. Volunteers would bring their own supplies and remove trash from the park.

Foys Herron Advisory Report

There was no one present from Foys Herron Advisory Committee.

Trails Plan Update

Mary Ruby reported that the first public meeting took place on March 21st. Thirty-eight people attended with 10 groups presenting. Five hundred and fifty-five surveys were completed but have not yet been analyzed.

The group is currently working on the chapter for safety and maintenance. Feedback from the monthly meetings indicates that there is a need for a full-time person to manage the trails, with funding to come from the Department budget. PATHS need to write the job description. It was emphasized that the group does not want to see the work go on a shelf and collect dust.

The Trails Plan update should be completed by July. Other agencies’ volunteer and maintenance agreements will be reviewed in an effort to develop a plan that would work for the County. It is generally agreed that this effort will have to be public/private partnership. There is no ‘silver bullet’ that will pay for maintenance.

Parks Department Report

Jed Fisher reported on the snow concern in Bigfork. Approximately mid-January was the last big snow dump – about 3’ of snow. School busses and businesses were shut down. The Road Department received several calls regarding conditions with the request that the roads be plowed. Public Works Director Dave Prunty phoned Jed and requested permission to dump snow to a short haul on County property because he did not want to dump it on private property. Carlyle Johnson Park subsequently received 50 – 75 loads of snow on the outfield, which caused protest from Bigfork Baseball folks, who felt this would delay their season start and also present potential harmful road debris, making the fields unsafe for play. The parking lot is Forest Service property and was not an option; however, moisture on the fields would be welcome because they are typically a dust bowl. With warmer weather since that time, the snow has receded almost daily. Some gravel exists and will be washed down.

The Department will maintain the Bigfork parks as in past years, allocating 2 men, 1.5 to 2 days per week. Dug-outs are maintained, field improvements are accomplished and new bases are installed.

Recreation Department Report

Amanda Davey reviewed the current programs and participation and also upcoming summer events – see attached summaries.

Weed Department Report

Weed staff is starting to get things fired up with additional staff returning today. The mower bid was awarded but delivery is delayed until August when it will be shipped from Germany. The new Weed Education/Compliance Officer is getting up to speed and has inspected local retailers for seed packets that contain noxious weed seeds. Staff is working on bleachers and dug-out lids. There is a lot of park work to do to get ready for spring. The chemical bid was awarded to CPS Timberland and chemical shed improvements have been completed.

Other Business

All budgets are down 2.4-3% in all divisions in order to offset health insurance increases, with approximately 100 K cut between the 3 departments – the bulk from building maintenance.

The potential land donation at Many Lakes was discussed. Jed will ask legal if the landowner can be required to provide an appraisal. The Commissioners do not want to take on more land, and the landowner needs to decide what course of action he will take. The Department will obtain appraisals for 3 properties to be considered for surplus and sale.

Matters of the Board

There were no Matters of the Board.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42AM.

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 7, 2018** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board

Recreation Report for April 2018 and Upcoming 2018 Summer Events

Approved:

Pete Woll, Board President

Date