

**Flathead County Weed/Parks & Recreation
Board Meeting
311 FFA Drive – Kalispell MT 59901
Conference Room**

**Agenda
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
8:30 AM**

- Call to Order
- Approve Previous Minutes
- Public Comment
- Parks and Recreation Department
 - Foys to Blacktail Trails MOU – Caitlin Overland, County Attorney
 - Lake Park Addition Tree Replacement – Comment & Review of Correspondence from DNRC
 - Foys to Blacktail Trails – Picnic Table Project & National Public Lands Day Projects
 - Trails Plan Update DRAFT
 - Recreation Report – Amanda Davey
- Weed Department Report
- Other Business
- Matters of the Board
- Adjourn

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: September 11, 2018

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, 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; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

Amanda Davey – Flathead County Parks & Recreation

Gabe Dillon – Foy’s to Blacktail Trails

Caitlin Overland – Flathead County Attorney

Linda Tutvedt – Foy’s/Herron Advisory Committee & Flathead Combined Training Association

Orrin Webber – Foy’s/Herron 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 September 11, 2018. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the August 6, 2018 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Mary Ruby moved to approve the August 6, 2018 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.

Parks & Recreation Department Report

• Foy’s to Blacktail Trails MOU – Caitlin Overland, County Attorney

Jed expressed some concern relative to the number of times Flathead County was scratched out of this memorandum. More oversight by the people ultimately responsible for the park would make more sense in terms of signage, diversion of waterways, etc. Caitlin Overland explained that this is a light touch agreement and was drafted by a volunteer attorney. The current language of this MOU gives more authority to Foy’s to Blacktail Trails for maintenance action.

Pete Woll recommended that he and a couple of board members review and edit the draft. Mary Ruby volunteered to review the MOU. Elise Robocker stated that she is comfortable with the existing document but is happy to give it another look. Any revisions will be reviewed by Caitlin Overland.

Gabe Dillon mentioned that Foy's to Blacktail is working on upgrading their insurance policy. In past years, the minimum requirements have been carried for the Weyerhaeuser agreement and they are hoping to strengthen their policy moving forward.

- **Lake Park Addition Tree Replacement – Comment and Review of Correspondence from DNRC**
Montana DNRC Service Forester, Rick Moore, submitted a written assessment from his site visit to Whitefish Lake on August 28, 2018. Outlined in his findings are four different possibilities of tree species for replacement. Mr. Moore's top recommendation is black cottonwood. Minimal maintenance would be required for this species and they tend to grow in monocultures.

Elise Robocker suggested that planting slightly smaller trees will allow them root faster. Jed explained that planting five trees instead of six will offer more wind exposure to develop strong boles. Mature cottonwoods have large trunks and spacing them out in this area will prevent them from crowding each other and promote healthier growth of each tree. Pete Woll suggested that any remaining balance of funds from this project be budgeted into a maintenance account in case repairs are needed in the future.

Clyde Fisher moved to replace five black cottonwood trees at Whitefish Lake Park Addition, as per the Service Forester's recommendation.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

- **Foy's to Blacktail Trails – Picnic Table Project & National Public Lands Day Projects**
Volunteer efforts continue to stain tables and signs at Herron Park. Gabe Dillon stated that Dick has been submitting status reports to Michele. Eight tables are finished and thirty-one remain. Public Lands Day is Saturday, September 29 and Gabe is hopeful to have enough help to get the tables finished that day.

Orrin Webber stated that the dog waste is a continuing problem within Herron Park and the trail system and perhaps installing an additional Dogipot station deeper in the park may help to ensure proper disposal. Jed and Gordie both voiced concerns about lack of staff to empty it regularly before the bags begin to decompose. The Parks Department will purchase and install another station in an effort to improve this ongoing quandary.

Linda Tutvet reported that the Flathead Combined Training Association had a wonderful event this month and she is pleased to see a caretaker occupying the area once more.

- **Trails Plan Update DRAFT**

Mary Ruby informed the board that the Flathead County Trails Plan draft has been published and is currently circulating for public comment during the entire month of September. The Daily Inter Lake published an article on the topic on September 10, 2018. As soon as all of the input and comments have been collected, the draft will be submitted to the Flathead County Commissioners for final adoption. Mrs. Ruby also mentioned that an amendment may be needed at a later date when a solution is devised for maintenance and volunteers.

Superintendent Fisher mentioned that Flathead County Public Works Director, Dave Prunty, recently met with the Montana State Highway Department to address seal coating portions of trails along the highway rights of way. The average cost to seal one mile of paved trail is approximately \$6,875.00.

- **Recreation Report – Amanda Davey**

Flathead County Recreation Manager, Amanda Davey indicated to the board that she has finished up summer t-ball, beach volleyball, men's, women's, co-rec, senior and church softball leagues. Fall softball, men's flag football, youth flag football, women's fall basketball and men's fall basketball are scheduled to

begin this month. Kids Summer Olympic games and the co-rec softball 'Wacky Bowl' tournament will also take place this month.

Weed Department Report

Gordon Jewett had to postpone roadside mowing operations during the stage 2 fire restrictions. Recent moisture will allow the start of second cutting this season. Roadside mowers will likely be rolling through the month of October. Spray operations are still on hold until fall regrowth is observed. Fire restrictions allowed staff to catch up on patching and crack sealing segments of trails and re-roof the chemical storage building. Gateway to Glacier trail fencing was reassembled with larger turnbuckles. Heavy snowfall had damaged the existing fence.

Jed Fisher reminded the board that it proves useful to pull resources from the Weed Department to supplement efforts within the Parks Department when weather or fire danger prohibits productivity. The Parks Department benefits greatly from being merged with the Weed Department.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Matters of the Board

A PATHS meeting is scheduled for 08:30AM on September 19 at 40 11th Street West, Kalispell, Montana.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 09:30AM.

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, October 1, 2018** at 08:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.


Documents Submitted to the Board

Memorandum of Understanding between Flathead County, Montana, and Foy's to Blacktail Trials, Inc.

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President



Date