

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors Special Meeting
Meeting Date: December 16, 2019

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Jessica Treweek, Pete Woll, Lori Moran

Members of the Board not in attendance:

none

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

Dennis King – West Shore Community Library
Gale Thornburg – West Shore Community Library
Rhonda Steubs – West Shore Community Library
Lana Batts – West Shore Community Library
Maggie Davis – Volunteer Park
Dave Landstrom – Foys to Blacktail Trails
Gabriel Dillon – Foys to Blacktail Trails

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 December 16, 2019. The meeting convened at 8:31 AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the December 2, 2019, meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jessica Treweek moved to approve the December 2, 2019 Board minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Grant Application Request – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Superintendent Fisher reported that he and Gordon were approached by Mr. Landstrom and Mr. Dillon last week about a potential grant to aid in funding trail maintenance within Herron Park. Mr. Fisher discussed the possibility with the Flathead County Grant Writer, Whitney Aschenwald. Mrs. Aschenwald supports the venture but was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Dillon informed the Board that conversations regarding maintenance of these trails have been ongoing for the past year. Many of the trails are beginning to hold water due to ground shifting and rainfall. A planner will be utilized to survey the existing trails. The grant funding available is a minimum of \$10K through the Montana State Recreational Trails Program. Foys to Blacktail already has matching funds and the work is expected to be completed in 2020.

Mr. Landstrom stated that this type of maintenance work is standard for dirt tread trails. Mini excavators can expedite the process and improve the quality of work. Design and gradient will resemble that of a Forest Service road; water will be diverted to sheet off the side of the trail instead of stream down the center like a creek bed. This is purely a maintenance project.

Mr. Fisher added that this type of collaborative effort is exactly the kind of thing we hope for from groups to get work done with budget limitations. Pete Woll requested a copy of the grant application prior to approval.

Jessica Treweek made a motion for intent to approve grant support and for staff to draft a letter of support to Foys to Blacktail Trails after reviewing the application.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

Discussion was held regarding timing of the application and it was agreed to hold a meeting in January to satisfy the grant application deadline of January 31, 2020. Whitney Aschenwald will be invited to attend that meeting as well.

All in favor – the motion was carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Public Comment review regarding proposed library building at Volunteer Park

Jed Fisher distributed copies of comments received from the public relative to moving the West Shore Community Library into the real estate building within the boundary of the Volunteer Park expansion. After the meeting in Lakeside and hearing from the public, Mr. Fisher opined that a consistent presence in the park would be beneficial. The building would also serve as a sound barrier from highway noise. Property lines should be clearly defined and a contingency plan will need to be developed legally in the unlikely event of reversion. Vandalism is a potential concern as well as winter plowing. Pete Woll asked about long-term maintenance of the parking lot. Jed answered that the Parks Department is ultimately responsible for that. Mr. Jewett added that the existing parking lot has only had to be sealed and striped once thus far.

Jessica Treweek explained that after attending the meeting in Lakeside and reading the letters that came in afterward, it was amazing to see the community band together in support of this library in Lakeside. Jed Fisher added that Volunteer Park has evolved into a regional park. Lori Moran felt that the public meeting in Lakeside was fantastic and informative. She stated that this is a wonderful gift from Maggie and Bruce. Maggie added that hearing the comments from the Board was heartwarming.

Jessica Treweek moved to recommend Commissioner approval of the relocation of the West Shore Community Library as part of the Volunteer Park expansion.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Jed Fisher stated that he looks forward to a team-oriented relationship with the West Shore Community Library. The lease they have now for their current location will expire on April 1, 2020. If approved, they would like to begin relocation as soon as possible.

Other Business

Jed Fisher recently signed a Lakeshore Permit for fill material as part of Phase III of the Volunteer Park expansion. Approximately six hundred cubic yards of material has to be moved. Prior discussion regarding parking lot hockey at Volunteer has been deemed unfeasible. Private property signage will be posted along the property boundary of the Waterside Condominiums development.

Mr. Fisher also mentioned that recent discussion has solidified the general consensus that pickleball would be better suited at Ben Williams Park in Lakeside. Mr. Woll added that Ben Williams has the potential to become more a sport themed park. Several trees have been lost at Ben Williams Park due to beetles and at least five more fir trees have been selected for removal.

Adjourn

Jessica Treweek moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31AM.

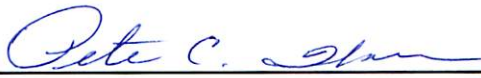
Lori Moran seconded the motion.

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

Documents Submitted to the Board

Emailed public comment regarding WSCL in Volunteer Park

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President



Date