

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation  
MINUTES  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Meeting Date: April 5, 2021**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

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

**Members of the Board not in attendance:**

All Board members were in attendance.

**Also in attendance:**

Chris Maestas, interim Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; Haily Hoff, Clerk

**Others Present:**

Amanda Davey, Gabe Dillon, Linda Tutvedt

**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 5, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, President Woll presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the March 1, 2021, 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 1, 2021 Board minutes.**

**Jessica Treweek seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

Gabe Dillon of Foy's to Blacktail Trails informed the Weed/Parks Board that he recently submitted a letter of support to the Flathead County Administrator and Commissioners outlining the increased collaboration between his organization and the Flathead County Parks & Recreation Department. Mr. Dillon is hopeful for a smooth transition through the director change.

**Parks & Recreation Report**

Amanda and Matt are currently running youth basketball and volleyball. Numbers for Daybreak Rotary Volleyball are much lower than anticipated because the schools did not run their leagues in the fall and running them concurrently with our league now. Work is in progress to gear up for youth t-ball and adult softball.

Gordon Jewett reported that two more seasonal workers returned today and they will begin on park cleanup work and sport field preparations for the busy season ahead. Some trees have blown over in Ben Williams and Volunteer Park and had to be removed. The ground is now too soft to bring in the necessary equipment to remove the stumps so this work will have to be completed after the frost this fall. Staff will begin opening bathrooms and starting up water systems as soon as the overnight temperatures remain above freezing. Gordie met with Adam from Bigfork Soccer and explained that their group will need to move the goals out of the way to allow for routine mowing of those fields. A donation was received for an electronic scoreboard at Carlyle Johnson Park.

A couple of telephone complaints have been received regarding the low water level of the river at the Flathead River Ranchettes boat access site. It was requested that the boat ramp be extended. Clyde stated the river will rise soon and Pete said that it would take some time to obtain a 124 permit before any work could be done. It was added that there are other available options to access this body of water and the Sportsman Bridge site that Montana State maintains is roughly five miles away.

Jessica Treweek walks her miniature donkeys at Herron Park and recently saw 23 dogs off-leash there as well as many mountain bikers racing by other users with no regard to livestock. People seem to keep their dogs leashed for the most part until they get to the tree line. Gordie stated the fine for unleashed dogs is \$125 and he has not yet made an appearance up there this season. This has been an ongoing problem and as soon as they are out of sight, most people let their dogs loose. When Gordie is up there, dogs tend to stay on leash but a constant presence to rectify this perpetual nuisance is impossible. Gabe voiced his observation that the perception of Herron users is that the leash law is not enforced and a culture change is necessary to shift that perception.

A recent storm downed a tree and destroyed the pavilion at Ben Williams Park. A MaCo representative is aware of the damage and was in contact with Jed last month. Gordie asked if the Board would like to see a full replacement of the pole structure that was there or if they'd rather go with a smaller circular style gazebo. The replacement cost for reconstructing the pavilion may cost up to \$30,000.00. Pete Woll asked Gordie to acquire estimates for both styles.

### **Weed Department Report**

The chemical bid information has been submitted to the Commissioners Office. Most of the equipment is ready for use but there are a few outlaying maintenance issues to address including some alignments, tire replacements and possibly contracting out some front-end repair work. A couple of pickup trucks are marked for surplus, one of which has a bent frame and has burned all oil indicating a major valve train issue. A switch in Capital Improvement purchases may need to take place.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Matters of the Board**

President Woll closed the session for personnel discussion per Jessica Treweek's request. President Woll reopened the meeting from closed session.

A special meeting of the Board will take place on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 08:30.

### **Adjourn**

**Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 09:46 AM.**

**Jessica Treweek seconded the motion.**

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

Approved:

  
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Pete Woll, Board President

5/10/21  
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Date