

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: June 14, 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, Director; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Supervisor; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

Brad Abell, Amanda Davey, Noel Jinings, Francis VanRinsum, Carolyn Wondrow, Dave Ruby, Mark Crowley, Jean Agather, Rhonda Steubs, 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 June 14, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the May 10, 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 May 10, 2021 Board minutes.

Lori Moran seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Jean Agather introduced herself as a pickleball player and resident of Lakeside. She informed the board that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation and she is enthusiastic about playing. Approximately 8-12 players use the tennis courts at Ben Williams Park every morning to play pickleball this time of year and they would like to have lines painted on the surface for that purpose. Tritan was contracted to lay the lines on the initial tennis court and Mrs. Agather has received a bid from them to add the lines for pickleball. This will only affect one court and all the funding (approximately \$1,200) for the project is being privately raised by their group. Pete Woll asked that this topic be listed on the next month's agenda for discussion.

Linda Tutvedt stated that the A-frame building at Herron Park has been removed and it looks fantastic.

Somers Company Town Project

Francis Van Rinsum and Dave Ruby would like to see a vaulted toilet installed at the Rails to Trails trailhead in Somers near the museum. Local businesses are supportive of the idea. Mr. Ruby stated that the Rails to Trails group has been contributing to pay for rental toilets in the area but a vaulted option like the one in Kila would be much more suitable. School kids also use the trail and bathroom and toilet rental costs have recently doubled. Discussion continued regarding potential cost and will likely be around \$16,000. Chris Maestas explained that this project could potentially be added to the CIP book

for fiscal year 2023. Mark Crowley, President of Rails to Trails, recognizes the budget constraints and would like approval from the board so they can begin to seek donations and explore grant opportunities to help offset the cost.

Jim Buechle moved to approve the concept of a vaulted toilet in Somers, budget the project into CIP for fiscal year 2023 and help Rails to Trails with the cost of rental toilets going forward.

Jessica Treweek seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding what may or may not be necessary for permitting through the Department of Environmental Quality. It was established that those permits will be sought by the Flathead County Parks Department.

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

Herron Park Culvert

The Road Department will lay a squash culvert in the marshy section of the meadow at Herron Park near the end of this fall. It was suggested to install an 8' long culvert 24" wide. The existing pipe will need to be removed by Parks Department staff.

Jessica Treweek moved to approve removal of the existing pipe and install a new culvert at Herron Park.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding the width of the path and potential safety concerns.

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

Potential Surplus Parks

There is a preliminary list of potential surplus parks. Chris Maestas will visit each one and inventory what, if anything, is in them. Brad Abell added that Many Lakes is a growing concern and has been working with Lincoln Chute in OES regarding timber thinning for fire mitigation.

Parks & Recreation Report

Adult league softball is on track and the men's league has grown. Youth summer t-ball, adult corec beach volleyball and 3 on 3 basketball will be starting up in the coming weeks. The Conrad Complex is down two employees so Kaileigh Sidmore has been filling in to help with maintenance operations. Chris added that Amanda has been doing a great job covering all of the needs at the Conrad Complex with minimal help.

Weed Department Report

Spray operations are high priority during the permissible weather days. The applicator's schedules have been adjusted to complete this work earlier in the morning to avoid wind. Contract work for the Montana Department of Transportation will be completed on time. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Federal Fish & Wildlife contract work is the next priority. Three roadside mowers are moving through the valley as quickly as they can. These roadside mowers will have to address trail sections that the Parks Department is responsible for mowing when Kaileigh Sidmore goes on maternity leave next month.

Other Business

There was no other business

Matters of the Board

There were no matters of the Board.

Adjourn

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

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President

7/12/21

Date