

**RhoFlathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**  
**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Date: July 12, 2021**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

James Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Pete Woll

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

Jessica Treweek, Lori Moran

**Also in attendance:**

Chris Maestas, Director; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Supervisor; Haily Hoff, Clerk

**Others Present:**

Amanda Davey, Jean Agather, Rhonda Steubs, Jody Aronson, Jennifer Felts, Julie Shobe, Sean Anderson, Bonnie Streeter, 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 July 12, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:33 AM, President Woll presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the June 14, 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 June 14, 2021 Board minutes.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

Gabe Dillon reported that Foy's to Blacktail Trails has completed approximately \$6K in trail improvements using a mini excavator, replaced the kiosk and have installed "you are here" signage throughout Herron Park and on National Trails Day. Finish work for drainage improvements was also completed using 48 hours of volunteer labor. Volunteer labor was also utilized for weed control totaling 28 hours. Linda Tutvedt added that they had a wonderful derby over the weekend and will run a second event in August.

**Ben Williams Pickleball**

Chris Maestas spoke previously with Jennifer Drew who was instrumental in the installation of the tennis courts at Ben Williams Park. Mrs. Drew seemed amenable to the pickleball group adding lines to the surface of one of the courts. Jean Agather has raised the funding for the work and the proposed project will not impact the Parks Department's budget. Temporary nets will need to be stored in a locked container nearby. The Somers Fire Department has agreed to clean the courts prior to the line striping.

**Jim Buechle moved to approve adding pickleball lines to one tennis court surface at Ben Williams Park in Lakeside.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

### **Backcountry Horsemen Grant**

The 124 permit has been submitted to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department for drainage work in Herron Park. Bonnie Streeter has the grant in the Backcountry Horsemen treasury. Mrs. Streeter stated that a number of non-profits are willing to fund a reroute within Herron Park.

### **Meadow Hills Park Project**

Chris Maestas spoke with a couple of members of the Meadow Hills Home Owners Association regarding installing playground equipment at Meadow Hills Park. The Flathead County Parks Department would match 50% of the HOA's contribution up to \$25K as a Capital Improvement Project. This project is in the early planning phase and wouldn't likely take place until fiscal 2023.

### **Parks & Recreation Report**

Buoys were placed in remaining swim areas and staff was able to shift schedules to cover park cleanup on and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. All paved trails have been swept. The Scoreboard donated by Bigfork Innovations Group for Carlyle Johnson Park has been delivered to the shop. The parking lot at Herron Park has been crack sealed by Z&Z and a complete resurface for the entire lot is budgeted in CIP expected for completion fall. Logan Health may donate AED machines for youth sports facilities. Chris has reached out to Lincoln Chute in the Flathead County Office of Emergency Services to discuss potential fire mitigation. Insurance has cut a check for the destroyed gazebo at Ben Williams Park and we are seeking quotes from local vendors for a replacement.

A softball tournament was held at the Conrad Complex on June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and accommodated 22 teams. Summer t-ball and adult co-rec beach volleyball have begun at the Conrad Complex. Recreation Program Coordinator, Matt Weger, has resigned. One seasonal General Parks & Recreation Worker position has been filled and the other remains vacant. Due to the substantial lack of applicants, all open positions within the Departments are currently posted as "open until filled".

### **Weed Department Report**

Noel Jinings has been fielding a high volume of phone calls and consultations on weed identification and control recommendations, as well as a plethora of complaints. Spray crew has finished up contract work over the last two months finishing up approximately \$60K worth of work by June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Applicators are now shifting to County rights-of-way work. Roadside mowing continues through Columbia Falls Stage, Batavia, and Deer Park areas. One seasonal sprayer position still remains vacant, it has been decided to attempt to fill that position later in the season to focus on fall applications. Pete Woll asked about the condition of the rental sprayers. Gordon Jewett indicated that most of them are in fair shape. There is one older unit that needs replaced but scarce inventory among vendors is still an ongoing issue.

### **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 08:50 AM.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President

8/1/21

Date