

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: April 4, 2022**

Members of the Board in attendance:

Pete Woll, James Buechle, Bonnie Streeter, Commissioner Brad Abell

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Lori Moran, Clyde Fisher

Also in attendance:

Chris Maestas, Director; Amanda Davey, Recreation Program Coordinator; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Supervisor; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

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 4, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the March 7, 2022, meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Bonnie Streeter moved to approve the March 7, 2022 Board minutes.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Linda Tutvedt stated that Volunteer Park is beautiful. Gabe Dillon requested a follow up conversation regarding a potential MOU between Flathead County and Foys to Blacktail Trails. Chris Maestas stated that from a departmental standpoint, he is happy with the current state of operations. The County Attorney's office is required to review agreements of this nature and they are still experiencing backlogs due to staffing shortages. Gabe mentioned that Foys to Blacktail has formal agreements with several other agencies and would like to see one adopted specifically to Herron Park and the Chase Trail as a baseline for referral. Mr. Dillon has received inquiries from multiple non-profit organizations that have expressed interest in volunteerism. Linda Tutvedt stated that she would like to see an MOU in place for the Herron Park Equestrians as well. Brad Abell said that the Commissioners have an attorney working on volunteer solutions for Flathead County.

Parks & Recreation Department Report

Youth t-ball and adult softball registrations are underway. Winter basketball leagues have concluded and adult spring basketball leagues and Daybreak Rotary Volleyball will begin this week. Gordon Jewett and staff have identified and evaluated needs in valley parks from picnic table and sign repairs to fall zone maintenance. Vandalism issues persist countywide. Swift removal is the most effective practice to combat this issue. Brad Abell has recently been in contact with Sheriff Heino and mentioned that the issues that we battle in parks are a low priority in local law enforcement as they are struggling to

manage the influx of illegal drugs coming into the valley. Chris added that Sheriff Heino has also mentioned the dangers of fentanyl. Transients and homelessness are also increasing in area parks. Gordon Jewett has several burials pending at Demersville Cemetery, that work will be scheduled when weather and staffing allow. Two seasonal employees returned to work today and two seasonal positions remain vacant. A delivery date is still delayed on a CIP pickup replacement since August. Equipment surplus will not take place until the replacement has arrived.

The Conrad Complex fields are being tilled and planed. Tanner Smith will be installing French drains in Volunteer Park to improve water issues. The drains will be bored instead of excavated. Chris Maestas spoke with Bruce Ennis and Maggie Davis at Pete Woll's request regarding their initial vision for Volunteer Park and vendors. Bruce and Maggie both support the Board's position of disallowing vendors in parkland. Gordon Jewett made a couple of trips to Herron Park in March to enforce the leash law. Bonnie Streeter asked if having only one park enforcement officer is adequate, Chris Maestas replied that is all the budget allows and park enforcement is only a fraction of Gordie's many responsibilities and adjusts his schedule throughout the season to address enforcement issues later in the evening when more users are present. Ben Williams pavilion replacement is under construction.

Weed Department Report

The chemical storage building is receiving upgrades in waterproofing, lighting, climate control and shelving as part of a capital improvement project. All work is being done in-house which has saved a significant amount of money. All equipment is ready to roll for spring work with the exception of one roadside tractor that is in the shop for a major repair. Rental sprayers will be calibrated and ready to go by the first week of May. Chemical pricing has been locked and herbicide ordered, delivery is expected by the end of April.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Matters of the Board

The bylaws were tabled in March due to two missing board members. The language was updated to fall in line with the revised resolution and adding Flathead County Commissioner, Brad Abell, as a non-voting member to the Weed & Parks Board.

Bonnie Streeter moved to approve the by amended bylaws.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Adjourn

Bonnie Streeter moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 AM.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President



Date