

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Board of Directors
Meeting Date: February 6, 2012

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker

Also in attendance:

Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Carol Bibler – Foys to Blacktail Trails
Tom Esch – Foys to Blacktail Trails
Skip Gilmore – Bigfork Advisory Committee
Liz Seabaugh – Foys to Blacktail Trails
Tamara Tanberg – Lakeside Advisory Committee
Bob Tuman – Flathead County Parks & Recreation

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation, was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana, on February 6, 2012. The meeting convened at 8:33AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Pete Woll made a motion to approve the January 9, 2012 minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion ~ and all in favor, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Cash-In-Lieu Discussion

Carol Bibler made a presentation regarding Foys To Blacktail Trails (FTBT) on behalf of Cliff Kipp, who was unable to attend. Herron is a very popular park and hosts year round activities including hiking, biking and equestrian events. A continual increase in use has been recorded with averages of 700 per week and 100 per day over the past year.

FTBT has been instrumental in land acquisition at Herron Park, which has grown over the past 14 months from 120 acres to the current 220 acres. The vision is to ultimately have 440 acres and a 13 – 20 mile trail all the way to Blacktail Mountain.

To date FTBT has raised 900K with 60% of these funds coming from private parties, \$140K from a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant, 80K from Montana Fish & Wildlife Trust and \$62,500 from Flathead County. 700K was spent on the first 100 acres – Phases I and II. Phase III will cost 350K, with 100K to be raised in 2012 to complete the purchase.

A maintenance program has been in place since 2007 and includes the contributions of work listed below, demonstrating broad community support.

\$53,710	Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)
\$8,520	Other volunteers
\$8,800	Donated heavy equipment time
<u>\$23,875</u>	Other businesses
\$94,905	Total

Long term maintenance commitment is reflected in the plans to establish a permanent Herron Park/FTBT endowment fund this year at Flathead Community Foundation, with 5K in seed money. When land purchase is completed, emphasis will shift to fundraising to build this endowment.

Another advantage is the potential for timber sales, which in 2007 brought \$24,600 in revenue to the County.

Foys to Blacktail Trails is requesting 50K from Cash-In-Lieu toward Phase III 50 acres of land acquisition for Herron Park.

Tom Esch and Liz Seabaugh spoke in favor of the request stating that the board has grown tremendously since 2001 and Herron Park is well used and supported. Chairman Ray Sanders commented that he toured the park recently and was favorably impressed with the trail and logging improvements. The trees were cleared sufficiently to allow for a good view. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported that during the logging operation there was one question and a few telephone calls; however, there were no complaints. Mr. Jewett stated that the department has received two support letters endorsing the 50K request.

Lakeside Advisory Report

Tamara Tanberg thanked the Board for their partnership and commitment. Their only cash-in-lieu requests were for a toddler swing and a new slide at Ben Williams Park.

Ms. Tanberg reported that there was preliminary work being done for Lakeside trails which would allow people to travel to and from the parks in a safe manner.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Skip Gilmore presented the following requests:

\$400 Bigfork docks kayak rack. This amount represents approximately ½ of the cost.

\$250 Lake Hills Park walking trail. This amount would go toward the estimated \$500 - \$600 for an equipment operator to define a trail running the perimeter of the park. Volunteers would be used to spread top material once the trail is established.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

There was no one present from Foys/Herron Advisory Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported that he closed the gate to the sledding hill because the ground was mushy and there is very little snow. Mr. Jewett also reported that the Road Department ran their culvert cleaner through the culverts in Herron Park and no obstructions were found. All culverts are running as well as can be expected.

Liz Seabaugh reported a concern about horses post-holing when the ground is soft. She questioned the possibility of the Parks Department providing signing to prohibit horses on the trails when the terrain is soft.

Cash-In-Lieu Discussion

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported that the department has several carry-over requests from last year. He will summarize the list and provide it to the Board prior to the special meeting tomorrow.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Tom Esch reported that the group is working on their annual calendar and obtaining the necessary insurance coverage for planned events, which includes National Trails Day in May, Herron Hustle, and Paddlethon.

Mr. Esch further reported that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust may hold their annual meeting locally to see the trails established at Herron. This group has contributed 80K to date and there is a request currently submitted for 40K.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

There was no one present from Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Jewett reported that the driveway road repairs and the fence repair are complete at Belton Stage Park.

Mr. Jewett relayed a request from Ronnie Lakes to construct a memorial to his step-daughter at one of the Hungry Horse Island parks. There was discussion that if this was allowed it would set a precedent. Chairman Sanders indicated he would need more information prior to a final determination.

Codes of Conduct for Recreation Programs – Review & Vote

Bob Tuman, Flathead County Recreation Director described a recent incident at a local school where a participant physically attacked a referee. This is the first time this has happened in Tuman's 12 years of employment. Tuman recommended the following regulation be added to Softball No Tolerance Rules 2011 – "Any physical attack by a player and/or spectator where an assault charge is filed will result in a lifetime ban from all Flathead County Parks & Recreation sporting events; upon the approval of the ban by the Parks & Recreation Superintendent and the Board of Directors." Tuman explained that this would not only be preventative but would also show the schools the department's firm position in this circumstance. He expressed his disappointment that the city police did not cuff the attacker and take him to jail.

Jim Buechle made a motion to support the new regulation in the Softball No Tolerance Rules 2011 – “Any physical attack by a player and/or spectator where an assault charge is filed will result in a lifetime ban from all Flathead County Parks & Recreation sporting events; upon the approval of the ban by the Parks & Recreation Superintendent and the Board of Directors.”

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

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

Other Business

- Permit Application from Foys To Blacktail Trails for Herron Park, May 5, 2012.

The board reviewed a request to waive the user fee for the Herron Hustle because the proceeds are used to benefit Herron Park. It was pointed out that user fees are charged to help offset maintenance costs.

Jim Buechle make a motion to waive the fee for the Herron Hustle to be held at Herron Park on May 5, 2012.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

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

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37AM.

Pete Woll seconded the motion

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

The time and place of a special meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.