

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Board of Directors
Meeting Date: October 1, 2012

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Elise Robocker

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Sharon Hopkins – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Clifford Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails

Tamara Tanberg – Lakeside Advisory Committee

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 October 1, 2012. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jim Buechle made a motion to approve the September 10, 2012 minutes.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Flathead Industries and Park Maintenance

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Flathead Industries personnel have been working on exterior maintenance for the Animal Shelter and the Office of Emergency Services. This program employs disabled vets or young persons and the success of this effort has motivated Superintendent Fisher to pursue expansion of the program to include options for Park maintenance. Possible projects would include preparation of surplus properties for sale, trail work at Vetville Park, painting, and staining bleachers. At the rate of \$7.90 per hour, Flathead Industries manages the training, provides equipment and supervision. The County will have a staff member overseeing projects. Superintendent Fisher requested a budget of 20K per year to look at projects with Weeds and Parks.

Jim Buechle made a motion to approve a budget amount of 20K per year for Flathead Industries to provide assistance with projects for Weeds and Parks.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Weed Enforcement Spray Rates

Superintendent Jed Fisher requested approval to charge \$100 per hour for enforcement spray jobs – an increase of \$25 from current rate of \$75 per hour. In addition to this fee, the standard rate for chemical and acres applies, with a 25% penalty on the entire amount.

Jim Buechle made a motion to approve \$100 per hour labor charges for Weed District enforcement spray jobs.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Bigfork Advisory Report

A letter thanking Skip Gilmore for his service to the Bigfork Advisory Report was signed. Sharon Hopkins requested a sign for the kayak rack – “Please do not climb on structure”. Recently there was a report of a boat docked overnight and the question arose as to whether this user was hooked up to electricity. Other than the electricity that runs the lights on the dock Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett was not aware of any additional connectivity that a boater might use. He will check into it.

Superintendent Fisher suggested the possibility of three person Advisory Groups with one alternate. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

A goal for the upcoming year is to determine the feasibility and interest in having a perimeter trail at Lake Hills Park. If this project is pursued it is possible that Eagle Scouts could assist with preparation and installation. Another goal is to meet with the sports groups sometime in January to review requirements for the upcoming year.

The bill from Jeffrey Funk for construction of the kayak rack totals \$800. Paul Mutascio has some money into it.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report /

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

Foys to Blacktail Trails

Events – Clifford Kipp reported a good turnout for National Public Lands Day on September 29, organized by Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) with the help of Rotary and Lone Pine State Park. Several groups were represented and there were about 80 participants.

Trails – The trail signing effort continues with the goal to improve user experience and the sustainability of the trails. The purchase cost will be covered by the RTP grant dollars. The County pays out and will be reimbursed by the grant.

Removal of the old property line fence was discussed & agreed upon. This fencing became obsolete after the first purchase of additional land for Herron Park.

Seed for revegetation will be provided by Flathead County Weed District and Montana Conservation Corps will do the work.

Community Forest Grant – Mr. Kipp reiterated appreciation for the partnership between Foys to Blacktail Trails and Flathead County. The recent award of the Foys Community Forest Grant was one of ten in the nation. A task force to administer the grant will include representation from the County Attorney’s office and from Planning & Zoning.

Lakeside Advisory Report

Ben Williams Park – Ms. Tanberg discussed the possibility of obtaining a grant to replace the playground equipment and distributed information on a piece of playground equipment to replace the slide which became difficult to insure. A Kompan Blazer ELE400021 was recommended which is a distant relative of the seesaw, has three seats and is set on heavy duty springs. The total cost, including \$880 in freight is \$3105.

Jim Buechle made a motion to authorize purchase of a seesaw type piece of playground equipment to replace the slide, to be paid for by Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Tanberg indicated that the Advisory Group would be losing two of its members – John Ulrich & Craig Koontz.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

There was no one present from the Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

Other Business

Chairman Sanders announced that the Board will have use of an Eagle Transit bus for future field trips.

Superintendent Fisher reported that the new well is essentially in place and the School District paid for 65% of the \$8,500 bill because it involves the public drinking water supply. The old well was 160’ to 180’ deep and the new well is 340’ deep. It is 111’ from the chemical shed and should last about 50 years.

There was discussion about contacting the City of Lakeside for water supply to Ben Williams Park. If possible, this option will be compared to the cost of having our own well.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34AM.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

The time and place of the next regular meeting is Monday, November 5, 2012 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.