

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**

**MINUTES**

**Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 1, 2013**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

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

All members were present.

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

Rob Brisendine – Kalispell Visitors & Convention Bureau

Tia Celentano – 24-Hour Mountain Bike Race

Mark Christensen – 24-Hour Mountain Bike Race

Cindy Ercoline – Kila Community Park

Dan Fagre– Middle Forks Advisory Committee

Cliff Kipp – Foy's to Blacktail Trails

Diane Medler – Kalispell Visitors & Convention Bureau

**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 April 1, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:31AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 4, 2013 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 March 4, 2013 board minutes.**

**Pete Woll seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Herron Park Permit Request – 24-Hour Mountain Bike Race**

A recent meeting took place with staff, County Attorneys Paul Nicol and Caitlin Overland, Tia Celentano & Mark Christensen who represented the 24-Hour Mountain Bike Race, to review concerns regarding the permit request. The meeting went well and Mr. Nicol has since advised that the County's insurance company does not have any issues with this event and we may move forward with the permitting process.

**Clyde Fisher made a motion to proceed with the approval process for the 24-Hour Mountain Bike Race at Herron Park.**

**Jim Buechle seconded the motion.**

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

Superintendent Jed Fisher requested that Tia and Heather reevaluate the need for rental of the Foys Community Center and review the initial permit for Herron Park to be sure it is all inclusive and accurately reflects all the details of the event.

### **Foys Center/Foys Lake Permit Request – Pond Hockey Tournament**

Rob Brisendine of the Kalispell Visitors and Convention Bureau stated that they plan to host a Montana Pond Hockey Classic on February 19, 2014. Foys Lake has been identified as a good location by Fish, Wildlife & Parks due to lack of fishing pressure. The rinks would hug the shoulder line of the lake. If the ice is insufficient to hold the event alternative sites have been identified.

The State of Montana has awarded 31K to help with the development and promotion of the event and they require a 1 – 1 match. It is estimated there will be 300 players from cities around the US and Canada, including local competitive and recreation teams, and 1500 - 2000 spectators. The event will include entertainment, music, food, hockey demos, and kid's activities.

Superintendent Jed Fisher has talked with County Attorney Paul Nicol and indicated there are some things to work out, including coordination with Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This event has the support of Paul Nicol and MACo, the County's insurance.

**Jim Buechle made a motion to move forward with the Montana Pond Hockey Classic event pending proper permitting.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

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

### **Weed Rodeo Request**

A request was received from Brenda Guzman for a \$250 donation to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Noxious Weed Pulling Rodeo to take place on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Participants in this event include the Forest Service, Park Service, Montana Conservation Corps, and commercial and recreational boaters, who hand pull weeds along the river. Flathead County Weed Department has donated to this effort in the past.

**Jim Buechle made a motion to approve the request for a \$250 donation to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Noxious Weed Pulling Rodeo.**

**Elise Robocker seconded the motion.**

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

### **Church Slough Flood Plain Permit**

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the floodplain permit for Church Slough has been forwarded to Planning & Zoning. A 30-day comment period begins once the permit is logged into Planning & Zoning records. The County's lawyers anticipate that once the permit is approved, Church Slough boat ramp may be reopened.

## **Cash-In-Lieu Requests**

All cash-in-lieu requests were reviewed by the Board. In order to preserve the cash-in-lieu balance no requests were approved for the upcoming budget year. It is anticipated that this account will not be replenished in the near future due to a slowdown in construction. The current balance will be depleted somewhat by projects approved last year that have not yet been accomplished. A gymnasium purchase is still a priority with available cash-in-lieu funds.

**Clyde Fisher made a motion to freeze spending of the cash-in-lieu funds for the upcoming budget year. Jim Buechle seconded the motion.**

**Discussion – Prior approved projects were reviewed with an anticipated depletion of 25K to the current balance.**

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

## **Remote Control Devices in County Parks**

The Parks & Recreation Department received a complaint from a neighbor at Camelot Park regarding remote control devices. There are a growing number of people who use the park to fly these devices which are loud and potentially dangerous. Past requests for this type of use at Herron Park were denied. There was discussion regarding a noise ordinance and airfields in the County where this would be allowed. It was agreed to table the discussion until the County's legal department can review and give an opinion regarding this concern.

## **Bigfork Advisory Report**

There was no one present from Bigfork Advisory Committee.

## **Foys/Herron Advisory Report**

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

## **Foys to Blacktail Trails**

Cliff Kipp reported that the appraisal for Phase III of land acquisition at Herron Park as well as Phases IV, V & VI were all okay for the purchase price if not more. Anticipated close for Phase III is the last week in April.

The trail map is being updated and will provide a much cleaner version of the trail system. The first phase of trail sign installation will occur within the next few weeks. Prior to installation of phase II signing the number and scope will be discussed between FTBT and the County in order to avoid installing an excessive number of signs.

Mr. Kipp thanked the department for its quick response to horses post holing at Herron Park. Recently several trailer loads of horses saddled up and taken to ride into a soft and muddy meadow causing a significant amount of damage and creating a safety hazard, in addition to the cost to fill in and compact the post holes. The Park was closed to equestrian use until further notice.

Kipp reminded everyone that National Trails Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Basic maintenance will be performed by volunteers under the direction of the Montana Conservation Corps. A local Rotary group has provided money for food.

The subject of using volunteers came up and Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Commissioner Cal Scott was checking into addressing the topic at the State level in the legislature. Prior attempts to get a more workable situation have failed. Mr. Fisher further stated that this is not a one-sided issue for the County but also for the volunteer(s).

Kipp reported that a grant was awarded from Applied Materials for youth crew trail work which will cover about a week of work to take place in late July or early August.

There was discussion regarding segregation of trails and specific areas of parks for permitted user events, for example horses, hikers, bicyclists and runners.

### **Kila Advisory Report**

Cindy Ercoline stated that there is a lot of ground work to be done at Kila Park. A fence incorrectly placed by Fish, Wildlife & Parks will be relocated to its proper location sometime later this month. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett confirmed that the area would be put on the mowing schedule beginning this season. The \$4,500 cash-in-lieu funds approved for this year's budget will be spent on tables and signing. Purchase of a spotting scope is premature. There was a comment about a depression in the ground at the railroad spur and a question of whether this serves a purpose (drainage?) or should be filled in. This is a question for Planning & Zoning and Mr. Jewett will look into it.

### **Lakeside Advisory Report**

There was no one present from Lakeside Advisory Committee.

### **Middle Forks Advisory Committee**

Belton currently has 1' of snow at and all is in good shape, with a little debris from winter warming fires. There have been a lot of compliments on this park with offers 360° views. The Road & Bridge Department will pull the silt fence and barriers this spring because the grass is now established. Paving from the trail into the park would be beneficial, as well as establishing a rest area. Installation of a vaulted bathroom will be considered.

### **Other Business**

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that he and Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett met with Tom Murphy of Flathead Industries to develop a maintenance schedule for several of the County parks, particularly Lakeside, Somers Beach and Bigfork. The schedule will most likely be Thursday – Sunday with wages as low as \$1.17 per hour. The Department will be receiving a full report with a bid.

Mr. Jewett reported that more staff is starting back today and the annual chemical bid will be completed soon. Chairman Sanders, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Jewett will be working on a 1-ton replacement truck.

### **Adjourn**

**Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00AM.  
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, May 6, 2013 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Permit Request – Montana Pond Hockey Classic

Email – 3-28-13 Weed Rodeo

Document – Gateway to Glacier Trail Jim Dupont Memorial Gazebo