

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Board of Directors

Meeting Date: December 2, 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 Board members were present.

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Edd Blackler – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Danielle Coffman – Montana Conservation Corps and Foys to Blacktail Trails

Sharon Hopkins – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Eric Mulcahy – Sands Surveying

Alan Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trail

Mary Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trail

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 December 2, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 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 November 4, 2013 Board 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.

CIL Park Dedication – Sands Surveying

Eric Mulcahy reviewed the proposed park land dedication on behalf of Wayne & Peggy Turner. The subject property is located 5-6 miles west of town right behind the fire hall and Julie's restaurant. The development encompasses 220 acres and the proposed park is 31 acres, with a 1.4% slope across the entire park. A 30' right-of-way exists at the property boundary, which would be paved at the developer's expense when that property is improved. There was discussion regarding a right-of-way on the east side as well. Paved access to the park and a potable water supply will be provided by the developer. The cash value of the first phase of development – 1.24 acres – is 7K.

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that the population density in the area is sufficient to sustain use of a recreational facility; however it would not create much income. Discussion turned to the number of parks currently maintained and the question of when the budget would be cut too thin. Possibly homeowners could

contribute to long-term maintenance. There is the potential for a special improvement district where everybody pays to play.

Superintendent Fisher reminded the Board of the continuing discussion about surplusing at least 20 existing parks which could provide cash to apply toward the development of this park. Also, the proposed park would not necessarily be developed right away and could be minimally maintained in the interim. Top soil, irrigation and fencing would be required and is estimated to cost in the 250K range. It was agreed that a memorandum of understanding be prepared in advance of approval going forward so that the County is protected.

The Board had varying opinions about this project and it was agreed that more information is needed. Mr. Mulcahy will revise the drawing to include parking requirements, the right-of-ways on the east and west boundaries, required set-backs, ingress and egress, and a multi-use field. Mulcahy will also provide number of homes in the 4 mile vicinity around the park. Superintendent Fisher will review the possibility of tying in the park to the Rails to Trails pathway.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Edd Blackler is working on having meetings with sports user groups to gather information for a report. He has already had a meeting with one of the park users and Sharon Hopkins has a meeting set up with another. There is a continuing concern with the lack of sufficient parking. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that a phone call was received from a resident who is concerned about emergency vehicle access on Shawnee Drive. The caller would like to have a gate installed that would block access to park users.

Superintendent Fisher will set up a meeting with representatives of PacifiCorp to discuss turning over the Sliter's Park lease to a Bigfork group.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

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

Foys to Blacktail Trails

Danielle Coffman reported that fundraising thermometers have been placed by the stables and the overlook. The group plans to submit a final request for cash-in-lieu money as they try to raise 250K for the last phase of Herron Park land acquisition. The Herron Park Forest Management Plan has been filed. Work on the kiosk is progressing and should be complete by summer. The chase logging is complete and went smoothly.

Kila Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Kila Advisory Committee.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

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

Mary Ruby reviewed the award of three grants to the Gateway to Glacier Trail effort– 10K from Burlington Northern Santa Fe, 3K from Whitefish Community Foundation of which 2K was from the Quinn Family Trust. There are two grants pending, including a donation of stock. The group is brainstorming on a parking lot at Belton Stage Park.

Other Business

The January 6, 2014 Board Meeting is cancelled. A special meeting of the Board may take place in order to make a decision on the CIL Park Dedication of the Turner property.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43AM.

Pete Woll 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, February 3, 2013 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Photographs and vicinity maps of the proposed CIL park dedication by Wayne & Peggy Turner.