

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: December 1, 2014**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

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

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

All board members were in attendance.

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

David Link – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory

Steve Robinson – Flathead County Education/Compliance Officer

**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 December 1, 2014. The meeting convened at 8:34AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the November 17, 2014 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 17, 2014 Board minutes.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment**

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that after discussion with the County Attorney, it was determined that further discussion regarding reinstatement of Dallas Casazza to the recreation programs should be handled outside of a public meeting.

Increasing costs of running background checks on referees and coaches for the youth recreation programs was reviewed. Currently \$26 is the least expensive background check which can run upward to \$200 due to name changes and residency outside of Montana. While it was initially a Board decision to have background checks completed, it may be time to revise criteria.

**Weed Enforcement Report – Education and Compliance Officer**

Education and Compliance Officer Steve Robinson discussed Flathead Conservation District's (FCD) cooperative weed enforcement program with Flathead County. Landowners who participate in the program are made aware that this is funded by FCD. It is not "free".

There was discussion about the possibility of a cooperative effort between FCD and Flathead County Weed Department for obtaining grants. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that grants can be perceived as a lump of money received from which \$50 vouchers are distributed as requested. In fact, the grant process is very specific and strictly defined. FCD's participation would be in writing grants for groups of landowners who have need

for funds to perform weed abatement. Flathead County's strength is in equipment and expertise. The County is lacking the personnel to prepare, manage, track and support the grant.

Mr. Robinson reported that the grant money for control of Tansy Ragwort has been expended. Most of the landowners who participated in the grant program have been contacted and the Department has clipped, sprayed and billed many of them. Landowners have been made aware that it is now their responsibility to control the Tansy.

There was continuing discussion regarding the possibility of charging for site inspections, in particular for subdivisions, similar to fees charged by other County departments such as Planning & Zoning, Environmental Health, Roads, and Animal Control.

#### **Bigfork Advisory Report**

There was no one present from Bigfork Advisory group. There was discussion regarding increasing park rental fees for sports groups.

#### **Foys/Herron Advisory Report**

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

#### **Foys to Blacktail Trails Report**

There was no one present from Foys to Blacktail Trails.

#### **Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Report**

David Link reported that the group is working hard to raise funds for development of Kila Community Park.

#### **Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report**

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

#### **Lakeside Advisory Report**

There was no one present from Lakeside Advisory group.

#### **Other Business**

There was continuing discussion regarding a zero tolerance policy for the recreation programs.

There was discussion regarding refocusing Advisory groups to be more task oriented. It is redundant to take their time reporting on maintenance concerns that are routinely handled by the Department.

There was no other business.

#### **Adjourn**

**Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17AM.**

**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, January 5, 2015** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

#### **Documents Submitted to the Board:**

There were no documents submitted to the Board.