

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: November 2, 2015

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Ray Sanders

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Edd Blackler – Bigfork Advisory

Cindy Ercoline – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory

David Swagar – Whitefish resident

David Creamer – Bigfork Soccer

Kari Peiffer – Blue Grouse Park neighbor

Lisa Shew - Marion

Linda Tutvedt – Flathead Combined Training Association

Clifford Kipp – Foy's to Blacktail Trails/Montana Conservation Corps

Mary Ruby – Gateway to Glacier Trails

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 October 5, 2015. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Acting Chairman Fisher presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jim Buechle moved to approve the October 5, 2015 Board minutes.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

David Swagar of 1500 Lakeshore Drive, Whitefish, thanked the Board for the 2008 solution to the dog concern which resulted in increased signing. His current concern is the 17°- 18° grade of the road that leads to Whitefish Lake Access Park. The majority of park users use the road and it gets a lot of use. Mr. Swagar would like to see pedestrian access only. The Board will take a field trip to the site by the end of November to review the concern, talk with the neighbors, and discuss potential solutions.

Two years ago Kari Pfeiffer purchased property adjacent to Blue Grouse Park and will meet with legal counsel today. Her concern involves the location of a fence between the properties. Several years ago the Parks Department staff installed a fence several feet inside the park boundary line in order to minimize costs and avoid drilling through a large boulder. Because staff is now fencing additional park properties and to maintain

consistency, the fence will be relocated on the park property line. Ms. Pfeiffer requested the topic be on the next Board agenda.

David Creamer, Athletic Director for Bigfork High School wants to lease space at Carlyle Johnson Park for soccer games. Rates charged in the past have varied and if the Department charges \$1500 the school won't be able to afford it. During a meeting held last February, Mr. Creamer had the understanding that the rate for fall soccer would be \$600, equating to \$15 per child, however, the Department's prior year invoice included a notation that the fee would increase to \$1500. The Department will prepare a cost summary for the Park and establish a flat rate to be consistent for all sports groups renting County parks. Fundraising was suggested. Mr. Creamer would like to have the topic placed on the December Board agenda.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Edd Blackler talked with the fellow who does maintenance and marks the fields for soccer. There was discussion about a field implant to expedite marking fields.

Edd Blackler called staff to task and expressed his displeasure about the lack of a meeting with Mike Close and other representatives of baseball. Many months have passed and a meeting date has not been set. The group is willing to provide manpower and equipment to maintain the fields and want to know what is expected of them. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett stated there would be a date set. It was generally agreed that there needs to be a standard fee for all park renters.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Cliff Kipp distributed the latest draft of the Herron Park trail map which will be available for \$1 to cover the cost of printing. Revisions will be made to include the parking and kiosk at the parking area. Mr. Kipp made a continuing pitch to consider having volunteers fall under the umbrella of Flathead County as opposed to Montana Conservation Corps as it's been in the past.

The group is continuing to work with three private landowners to obtain easements for the Foys to Blacktail Mountain trail. Landowners abut Forest Service property. Mr. Kipp stated that the group would like to be a resource for weed work next spring. In addition, they are discussing a safety plan in response to a recent incident involving emergency crews who had difficulty accessing the Park. The possibility of a helicopter landing pad was mentioned. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett stated that he is also working on the concern. He is identifying who has locks on the gate and will contact search & rescue to set ground rules and address access.

To date FTBT has raised 2.5 million toward land acquisition. There are 18 miles of trails at Herron Park.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

Linda Tutvedt reported that she was present on behalf of Flathead Combined Training Association. Stadium jumps have been removed for the winter and the recent rainfall is good. Herron Park looks great.

Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Report

Cindy Ercoline reported that fundraising efforts have brought in 16K. Sue Wallace has been preparing grant requests and the group has received 3K from Plum Creek for the pavilion. Due to grant requirements for matching funds the available cash is limited. Construction is anticipated in spring of 2016, pending necessary permits, insurance and authorizations.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Middleforks Advisory Committee.

Gateway to Glacier Trails

Mary Ruby reported that the Coram to West Glacier trail system has a funding shortfall of approximately 100K due to increased construction costs. Fundraising continues and has been assisted by the Columbia Falls House of Mystery. Portions of old Highway 2 will be used to help mitigate the shortfall. Construction is anticipated in the spring of 2016.

The new asphalt seal from Hungry Horse to Coram is welcome and appreciated. Attempts to obtain an easement through the Columbia Falls Aluminum plant river property has not been successful thus far. Gateway to Glacier Trails has raised 2.1 million to date.

County Gymnasium Report

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Kim Thomas of Payne West Insurance has been the lead person in the gymnasium effort and the next meeting on November 10th will include making a decision on the site in order to proceed forward. Kim has done an excellent job and has been a great asset in this effort.

Weed Department Report

Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett reported that the crew is wrapping up fall application and is starting to push the bad weather window. Weed crew is permanent seasonal status and remaining crew will be done as of November 27th. Education and Compliance Steve Robinson resigned.

Other Business

The Board agreed to endorse Superintendent Fisher's request to hire a facilitator/moderator to host the upcoming fee schedule workshop which will include advisory committee members, board members, and staff members.

History of the culvert at Herron Park was discussed. Departments and entities involved included the Army Corp of Engineers, Soil Conservation District, Flathead County Planning & Zoning and the Road & Bridge Department. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett will contact the Bridge Department to flush out the culvert.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 AM.

Elise Robocker 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, December 7, 2015 at 8:30AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Draft of Foy's to Blacktail Trails at Herron Park Trail Map