

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: February 1, 2016

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; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

Dave Prunty – Flathead County Public Works, Director

Cindy Ercoline – Kila/Smith Lake Advisory

Theresa Majeski – Community Health

Edd Blackler – Bigfork Advisory

Clifford Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails/MCC

Val Parsons – Gateway to Glacier Trails

Jamie Belt – Gateway to Glacier Trails

Ed Lieser – House District #5

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 February 1, 2016. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, Vice-Chairman Fisher presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Elise Robocker made a motion to approve the December 7, 2015 Board minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Ed Lieser introduced himself as a resident of Lion Mountain Drive in Whitefish and a representative member of Montana House District #5. Mr. Lieser distributed a survey map of the Whitefish Lake Access area. Whitefish Lake Access is one of three limited access sites on Whitefish Lake. It is difficult to identify this site as a county park because the neighboring residence has encroached into the property. Most users come off the lake to use the outhouse facility. The outhouse has been there for a long while and is due for replacement. There is currently an opportunity to improve this site with the advent of upcoming trail construction through the City of Whitefish. A grant may be available for upgrading the outhouse. Lieser would like the Board to consider a collaborative effort among the Flathead County Parks Department, Whitefish Lake Institute, neighboring residents and the City of Whitefish to improve this site. Jed Fisher stated that this topic will be on the agenda of the March 7, 2016 meeting. Prior to that meeting, a tour of the site will take place.

Lakeside Green Box Site Review

Dave Prunty explained to the Board that the Solid Waste Department is in the process of designing an expansion to the container site in Lakeside adjacent to Ben Williams Park. Mr. Prunty distributed a diagram of the concept plan for the improvement. It will be a larger, fenced, and gated facility that will be staffed seven days per week from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. The entry at Soren Lane is not on the right of way so an easement request has been submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation. The easement must be designed to appropriate engineering standards. Construction will likely begin this June. The Flathead County Road Department will pave a sixteen foot apron and construct a landing with a 2% slope on the entry of Ben Williams Park. Equipment operators will keep the park accessible to users throughout the construction process. Flathead County Solid Waste and Lakeside residents will share the expenses to complete this final container improvement site. Dave Prunty mentioned that having these sites improved and staffed has significantly increased safety and operations.

Trail Update – Glencore Licensure and Trail Maintenance

Jamie Belt of the Gateway to Glacier Trail system has been working with the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company to negotiate a land use agreement on their property east of Flathead River. Mrs. Belt distributed a map of the proposed Gateway to Glacier Trail section. CFAC owns approximately 700 acres of undeveloped land that has great potential for approximately 3 miles of river front trail with cottonwood bottomland from Columbia Falls to Hungry Horse. Glencore has agreed to this proposed use for an indefinite period of time. A Draft license is ready for signature. A clause is included to reimburse trail construction costs in the event the property is sold to another party. The Gateway to Glacier group envisions a mulch wilderness trail initially to keep costs and maintenance to a minimum. Hopefully this connectivity will spur economic development in the area. Gateway to Glacier would like Flathead County to assume liability and convince the Commissioners to add it to the list trails in Flathead County. The license is in the County Attorney's office for review and they are assessing contamination liability concerns. Valerie Parsons would like to see the Board move forward on this. Mrs. Parsons also addressed the ongoing concern of maintenance funding. Tentative annual costs are estimated at \$3,500 per mile. These maintenance costs should be tackled county wide and perhaps a tax levy could remedy the dilemma.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Edd Blackler reported on a recent discussion he had with the Bigfork School Superintendent. Although they would love to purchase Carlyle Johnson Park, it is not in their budget and it will take some time to have it bonded. They will continue to cooperate with the groups in the area to coordinate schedules for users. Jed Fisher mentioned that Gordon Jewett is currently working on cost estimate figures for Bigfork Dock improvements.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Clifford Kipp reported that Foys To Blacktail is continuing to work with landowners on acquiring easement agreements. Work is expected to occur this spring into early summer. He also thanked the Board for their continued support and mentioned that they are currently compiling information for their 2016 events calendar. The calendar should be completed soon and will be available on their website as well as their Facebook page.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

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

Kila Advisory Report

Cindy Ercoline inquired on the status of their pavilion plan that was submitted to insurance. Jed Fisher said that there should be no issues since it is being professionally designed. Mrs. Ercoline has been researching ADA compliant surfaces and regulations. Packed crush surface may be a good start to this project until they can raise enough money to pour the entire slab. It is expected to cost approximately \$7,000.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from Lakeside Advisory Committee. Jennifer Drew sent in an email dated Friday, January 29. Mrs. Drew relayed that she had met with people from the Lakeside Community Development Foundation and they have great interest in helping in the Lakeside/Somers communities. The Advisory group is aware of the upcoming work to be done on the Blacktail Trail, the green box site expansion and the resurfacing of the Ben Williams tennis courts. Jennifer Drew also mentioned her concern of the dead trees within Ben Williams Park.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

There was no one present from Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

Gateway to Glacier Trails Report

Val Parsons stated that they reported everything they needed to under the Trail Update agenda item.

County Gymnasium Report

Superintendent Fisher informed the Board that Kim Thomas is leading the gym committee forward with members from Jordahl & Sliter, CTA, Montana West Economic Development and others to draft a business plan. The gymnasium will be constructed on the property Davar Gardner has agreed to donate to Flathead County off Highway 93 South in Kalispell. The business plan will be completed within the next couple of months. The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 3rd on the second floor of the Earl Bennett Building at 5:30PM.

Weed Department Report

No report was made.

Other Business

Clifford Kipp reported on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps about resourcing labor for Flathead County Parks & Recreation. Mr. Kipp sent a service order to Gordon & Jed for cleaning up unmaintained areas. These orders usually aren't established until later in the spring, so they are very hopeful to be utilized for work this summer. Montana Conservation Corps has approximately 36 youth that can offer 40-80 hours to County Park projects. Jed Fisher mentioned that Lincoln Chute of Flathead County Office of Emergency Services may have some labor options as well.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40AM.

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, March 7, 2016** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Lakeside Container Site Concept Plan Improvements Diagram

Proposed Gateway to Glacier Trail Map