

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: October 1, 2018

Members of the Board in attendance:

Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Mary Ruby

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Daniel Parkey – Citizen

Teshia Parkey – Citizen

Kari Nielsen – Flathead County Planning & Zoning

Rachel Ezell – Flathead County Planning & Zoning

Gabe Dillon – Foy's to Blacktail Trails

Linda Tutvedt – Foy's/Herron Advisory Committee & Flathead Combined Training Association

Clifford Kipp – Foy's/Herron Advisory Committee & Montana Conservation Corps

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 1, 2018. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the September 11, 2018 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Clyde Fisher moved to approve the September 11, 2018 Board minutes.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Rachel Ezell and Kari Nielsen gave a brief history of the Trails Plan update efforts, which began over a year ago. A draft was submitted for public comment for the period of September 1st – 30th and comments received were submitted to the Board for their review. The Board will consider these comments prior to giving a recommendation to the County Commissioners. Jed emphasized that the Trails Plan is not a commitment to build trails. The Commissioners feel strongly about funding from outside sources.

Parks & Recreation Department Report

• **Whitefish Lake Park Addition Tree Replacement – Comment**

Jed stated that the Board had previously decided to move forward according to the recommendation of a DNRC Forester, which was to plant 5 black cottonwoods. The cost is \$1,195 for installation, including dirt and tractor time, but does not insure growth.

Daniel and Teshia Parkey reside at 1450 W Lakeshore Drive (adjacent to the park) in the home formerly owned by Commissioner Phil Mitchell. The Parkeys would like replacement trees selected that would most benefit the park, which in their opinion would not be cottonwoods. Cottonwoods cause allergies, are prone to disease, and are high maintenance. Further, an internet search would show cottonwoods as one of the top 10 trees NOT to plant, usually in the #1 position. The Parkeys stated that goals for determining tree replacement can be accomplished with a different tree species. Considerations should be the sun and shade balance, as well as easy access to and through the park. There are many cottonwood saplings now growing throughout the park. In addition, a vacant lot adjacent to the park is being used for park access and will soon be developed by a private party. Mr. Parkey encouraged the Board to make a decision that is really right for this park.

Jed stated that proper spacing is a must to ensure growth and it is not the Board's job to ensure the view sheds of private homeowners. Initially there were 6 trees to be replaced but one could not be completely removed because it could kill the tree next to it, so the number for replacement was reduced to 5. If the park were developed today the tree choice may not be cottonwoods, however, there are a number of people who feel that the new trees should be the same species as the ones that died and were removed. Overall, the most important concern is to consider the functionality of the park.

In order to make a decision, it was agreed that all Board members should be present. It was also agreed that a field trip to review the site was appropriate. Reconsideration of the decision to plant 5 cottonwoods would be made after the site review.

• **Foy's to Blacktail Trails MOU – Gabe Dillon**

Gabe stated that he was checking in on the status of the MOU. He thinks there was some confusion at the Board meeting last month. The MOU is meant to address just Foy's to Blacktail Trails and does not involve Herron Park, with the largest chunk of the easement belonging to Weyerhaeuser.

Elise Robocker moved to have the County Attorney move forward with the MOU for Foy's to Blacktail Trails.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Gabe said National Parks Day volunteer efforts were less than anticipated with several people cancelling. There are 15 picnic tables left to stain in the park, most are located by the stables.

There are currently 3 locks on the Herron gate – 1 Plum Creek and 2 Flathead County. Additional locks have been removed to eliminate unauthorized entry. Permit holders need to indicate their gate needs on their paperwork and Gordie will schedule accordingly. Emergency vehicles have a key to the lock and also carry bolt cutters if needed.

Weed Department Report

Projects Completed

- Round 1 spraying – 2,000 miles completed or 4,000 lane miles
- Round 2 spraying started back up after fire restrictions were lifted
- Approximately 2/3 of State Highway contract is now complete until July 1st, 2019
- Weed crew did the chemical shed roof/storage building during fire restrictions
- Weed crew assisted Parks in tear-down of the dangerous dilapidated dugouts
- To date, approximately ½ of fall applications on County is complete
- Mowing operations back on schedule with 1st round of mowing completed prior to fire restrictions – now done with 2/3 of 2nd round of mowing with 1,000 miles of roads mowed. Many roads are mowed a double width during this round. Mowing will continue until mid to late October.

Other Business

Jed reported that a Conrad Complex employee resigned. The Department is using existing staff to fill in until the position is reopened next spring.

It is time to review Many Lakes parks for potential surplus and sale of three of them. Once a determination is made we will move forward with surplus and sale.

Jed is supportive of contributing to Kalispell Public Schools for recreation equipment, which will in turn result in securing the Department’s future for gym space. The decision needs to be made as soon as possible, so that installation can take place during school construction, when the cost will be significantly lower.

Pete asked about the possibility of the Department’s use of the old roller rink which is now being run by the Sheriff’s Posse, who is pushing for youth programs. This seems to be a good fit with a lot of potential.

Matters of the Board

There were no matters of the Board.

Adjourn

Elise Robocker moved to adjourn the meeting at 09:45AM.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.


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

The time and place of the next meeting is **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** at 08:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board

Trails Comments from September 1-30, 2018.

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President

10/16/18
Date