

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: February 7, 2022

Members of the Board in attendance:

James Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Lori Moran, Bonnie Streeter, Commissioner Brad Abell

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Pete Woll

Also in attendance:

Chris Maestas, Director; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Supervisor; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

Amanda Davey, Gabe Dillon, Jennifer Rogge, Ashley Jennings, Lorrie Woods

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 7, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, Vice President Moran presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the December 6, 2021, 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 December 6, 2021 Board minutes.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Ashley Jennings and Jennifer Rogge introduced themselves to the Board as citizens on Lakeside who are interested in holding a reoccurring event, every other Thursday, in Volunteer Park from June through September. They would like to schedule live music, local artisans and food trucks. Jim Buechle recalled a no vendor policy in Flathead County Parks. Gordon Jewett added that there are liability concerns from the County Attorney's perspective as the State of Montana has been previously sued for allowing similar activity. Mrs. Jennings rebutted that their event would have no impact on the park and they provide their own clean-up. The Lakeside Chamber of Commerce would host the event and hold the insurance. Planning and standard operating procedures would be developed and this event is intended for community enrichment. Director Maestas stated that this request would be taken under advisement.

Gabe Dillon reported that he had a successful meeting with Gordie and Chris. They have laid out a scope of work for trail projects and volunteer events and mentioned that he would like to see a memorandum of understanding for Foys to Blacktail Trials and the Chase easement. Ebike use continues to be a grey area for most land managers. Brad Abell added that signs are posted on Weyerhaeuser property (Flathead Ridge) stating no ebikes are allowed. Commissioner Abell also stated that Jim Watson's attorney has drafted something regarding volunteer work and sent it to County Attorney David Randall for review.

Parks & Recreation Department Report

Director Maestas reported all water systems have been winterized, completed leaf clean-up, removed more dead trees from Ben Williams. Flathead Electric will be removing a cottonwood tree out of their right of way near Camelot Park. The snow groomer has been prepared for use in Herron Park. Annual maintenance on all equipment is underway as well as snow plowing, as needed. Paved trail assessments were completed with the Montana State Department of Transportation in December and that information will be sent to engineers for planning the work. Fog and crack sealing should be completed by the end of this summer. A quick tour of Many Lakes was taken to assess some fire mitigation strategies. No decisions have been made going forward and community input will be collected. County Park inventory updates are underway and Shawn Moody has returned for the season today. Some ADA improvements were made in the entry way and restroom of the main office building at 309 FFA Drive.

The Recreation Program Coordinator position has finally been filled by Nate Pilsch. Men's, women's and youth basketball programs are going on now. As usual, there is not enough gym space to expand our leagues. The ultimate goal would be to acquire our own facility. Daybreak Rotary Volleyball and youth t-ball registrations are currently open for the spring season.

Weed Department Report

Gordie Jewett has taken inventory of herbicides to determine how much will need to be ordered for the upcoming season. Increases of up to 200% are expected for some chemicals. Gordie is in contact with distributors for pricing. Vehicle inventory is also an ongoing issue for a CIP pickup replacement.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Matters of the Board

Chris Maestas welcomed Commissioner Brad Abell as an additional non-voting member of the Weed & Parks Board. The current resolution and bylaws have been updated and will go before the Commissioners for approval next month.

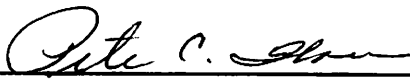
Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 AM.

Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.

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

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President

3/7/22

Date