

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Date: August 1, 2022

Members of the Board in attendance:

Pete Woll, Clyde Fisher, James Buechle, Bonnie Streeter, Commissioner Brad Abell

Members of the Board not in attendance:

Lori Moran

Also in attendance:

Chris Maestas, Director; Amanda Davey, Recreation Program Coordinator; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Director; Haily Hoff, Clerk

Others Present:

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 August 1, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM, President Woll presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the June 6, 2022, 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 June 6, 2022 Board minutes.

Bonnie Streeter seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Jim Buechle voiced his concerns about the lack of recreational opportunity for the youth in Flathead County and expressed his desire for the County to acquire a gymnasium. Chris Maestas stated that a lot of upfront capital would be required for a project of that magnitude. Mr. Buechle would like to see the department reach out to potential donors. Brad Abell stated that he is not willing to support the department in obtaining a facility nor is he willing to discuss it with the other Commissioners at this time. The jail and infrastructure needs will take priority. Jim Buechle continued that it would behoove the community to provide services that prevent sending people to an overcrowded jail. Amanda Davey added that the local school gymnasiums are always booked and they do not allow adult programs.

Parks & Recreation Department Report

Director Maestas reported that this department still has two unfilled positions. The temporary employee being utilized from Express Employment is now filling in in other areas, including some trail work. Some equestrian events and a bike race are scheduled to take place in Herron Park in the coming weeks. Minor irrigation issues persist in several parks but everything is getting watered. The kindly donated pavilion project in Kila Park was completed and looks great. The scoreboard at Carlyle Johnson has been erected and the electrical wiring should be completed this fall. All swim area buoys were set by July. Park rental revenue for fiscal year 2022 was considerably higher than the previous year.

Concession revenue also exceeded the budget and covered the cost of the lease payment to the Conrad Cemetery. A couple of bathrooms had to be closed because they are full and we are unable to find anyone to pump them. Brad Abell added that this is a countywide problem and the Commission is working towards an alternative biofield solution.

The Recreation staff is busy with field work and programming at the Conrad Complex. The area where the infield meets the outfield had been leveled off on the inside four fields. A sun shade was put up on Field #3 to improve visibility. Currently there are sixty-five teams registered for summer league adult softball. Co-Rec fall softball and flag football will begin in September. A 24-team tournament was held at the Conrad Complex in June. Recreation program revenue increased in FY22 from \$135K to \$142K. It was mentioned that homelessness problems are persistent in parks as well as along trails. Amanda Davey had an unusual interaction with an individual at the Conrad Complex who was wielding a large knife.

Weed Department Report

The Flathead County Weed District staff currently has two vacant positions; one roadside mower operator and one spray truck applicator. Roadside mowers are currently making their way through the Columbia Falls and Foy's lake areas. If fire danger increases the mower operators will have to change to a hoot owl shift. Poor weather in late June impeded the right-of-way treatment along the Havre section which consists of the top seven miles of Marias Pass. All other contract work is going well. Pickup truck replacements are still delayed due to computer chip manufacturing issues. One CIP pickup has been acquired and the other is still not built from a bid that was submitted last August.

Other Business

The September meeting will land on Labor Day. Discussion was held regarding postponing or cancelling the September meeting. It was decided to wait until later in the month to decide. Bonnie Streeter reported that on her last trip to Herron, she saw 27 cars, 3 dogs on-leash and 2 dogs without owners. Chris Maestas added that the last time hiked up there he did not see any dogs off-leash. It was mentioned that the old trail looks nice and the main park is in really good shape.

Matters of the Board

Conflict of interest forms were distributed to members of the Board.

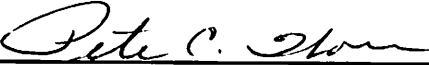
Adjourn

Jim Buechle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 AM.

Bonnie Streeter seconded the motion.

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

Approved:



Pete Woll, Board President

10/3/22
Date