

**Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation**  
**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Date: December 5, 2022**

**Members of the Board in attendance:**

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

**Members of the Board not in attendance:**

Lori Moran, Jim Buechle

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Others Present:**

Gabe Dillon and Lynn Foster– Foy’s to Blacktail Trails, Linda Nickol- Herron Park Equestrians

**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 December 5, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:44 AM, President Woll presiding.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the October 3, 2022, meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

**Bonnie Streeter moved to approve the October 3, 2022 Board minutes.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

**Public Comment-** Gabe Dillon wanted to thank the Parks Department regarding clearing of the trees and maintenance up at Herron Park. Linda Nickol stated that some horse jumps were removed.

**Foy’s to Blacktail – RTP Grant**

Foy’s to Blacktail Trails (FTBT) is interested in applying for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant during the 2023 cycle. This grant would go towards drainage improvements on the remaining sections of trail not completed in 2019 and 2020. Approximately 1.5 miles of double track road would require a mini excavator operated by an experienced trail builder and another 2.8 miles of single-track trail would utilize a professional trail crew to maintain drainage features.

Mr. Dillon stated the goal of FTBT is to submit a successful RTP application and provide the 20% required match for this project with zero financial cost to the County. Target dates would be spring 2024 when soil conditions are best. He believes they will have a strong application because in 2019 FTBT did not receive RTP funding for a similar project in Herron Park and decided to complete the project using cash and other local grant sources.

There was discussion regarding this proposal. Mr. Woll requested the County review the application prior to its submission.

**Bonnie Streeter moved to support Foy's To Blacktail proceeding with the grant application contingent upon Parks Department approval.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

### **Parks & Recreation Department Report**

The Parks department spent most of the final 2 weeks of the season removing fallen tree branches at various parks after a fall snowstorm. Chris Maestas reported that Parks department has completed the following tasks: buried indigent urns at Demersville Cemetery, leaf removal, had Volunteer Park and Whitefish Lake Access sprayed by Trugreen, winterized park irrigation systems and restrooms, pumped septic, removed swim buoys and docks, installed frost-free line at shop, laid gravel at Church Slough parking lot, worked with Road dept. to have parking lot potholes filled at shop. Conrad Complex had its exterior bulbs and several interior lights replaced, bleachers and picnic tables stained, and new vinyl flooring installed in the manager's office and concessions building.

Youth flag football, adult flag football, and fall softball seasons have finished. The Complex has been winterized and staff has moved to the office and gyms for the winter season. Men's, women's, and youth basketball leagues are either under way or are preparing to begin. The department is working on a new Code of Conduct policy for adult recreation activities. An adult dodgeball and co-ed adult basketball tournament are being planned for the winter.

### **Weed Department Report**

Weed department has finished spraying and roadside mowing for the season. Spray season ended strong going well into October due to good weather. Rabe Road and a portion of Whitefish was hydroseeded just before the first snowfall. Equipment and vehicles are currently being inspected and routine maintenance is being performed as necessary. The department will prepare to make a chemical bid order sometime after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

### **Other Business**

There was brief discussion about a letter received by a board member regarding an adult softball team name. Mr. Maestas assured the board that the matter has been dealt with in a manner he believes satisfies all parties involved.

### **Matters of the Board**

There was brief discussion regarding board member, James Buechle's term ending at the end of December.

### **Adjourn**

**Bonnie Streeter moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 AM.**

**Clyde Fisher seconded the motion.**

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

Approved:

  
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Pete Woll, Board President

2/6/23  
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Date