

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

July 28, 2009

Attended by:

Park Board members: Janet Sproull, Heidi MacDonald, Dale Harris, Pat King, Tim Bechtold

Staff: Morgan Valliant, Donna Gaukler

Others: Gregg Kennett

Minutes of June 2009 were approved as submitted.

Public Comment:

Jerry Ballas a member of the Rose Park design team spoke in favor of the selected design for the art work for the fire fighter tribute. The design and scale concept of the artist fits well with the other elements in Rose Park. The design will not inhibit any other view of the other monuments and will add to Rose Park and fits with other veterans memorials.

Conservation lands and plan update: Morgan Valliant with ERG representative was Gregg Kennett. ERG along with Morgan Valliant gave an update on the progress of the Conservation Lands Management plan. The working group had excellent skills and was able to focus on key issues by developing goals and objectives. The plan will also include documentation for each parcel.

The guiding principles include the desired results, goals and priorities. The restoration goal is to maintain habitat and vegetation types on conservation lands including special plants, and habitat types. The plan should restore native and disturbed habitat to maintain a healthy wildlife. It will be important to interpret and protect the appropriate historical and ecological themes.

The Recreation goals include providing diverse and appropriate rate on recreational activity and to avoid recreational user impact. The plan should maintain the scenic view shed and use the lands for educational activities. Management of the lands should be done cooperatively with other adjacent land owners.

Part of the work done by ERG was to index parcel by goal and score using criteria giving each a ranking by goals and score. Staff will initiate the scoring of the parcels. Parcels can be ranked in either recreation or restoration.

ERG should be able to provide a draft of the management plan by the end of August. The next working group meeting is end of August, and staff should review the draft prior to that meeting. The Conservation lands technical has been a part of the process for developing the management plan.

Donna – it is important to do the value work first independent of objectives and goals then apply the objectives. Due to staff workloads, and responsibilities, we need a good communication structure set up for open space lands. There are many interested groups providing information. The groups were created to help with management; however there are conflicting goals by each of the groups. I would suggest having Park Board help with enhancing communication with citizens, public, but not having multiple board meetings which limit staff resources. Staff will ask the board for direction on this issue.

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Janet asked if the technical group had met to discuss the developing management plan. Greg said that they'd been kept informed via email. Janet stressed that it was important for the technical group to meet in person. The summer season can be very busy and some of the members might not have had a chance to read through the materials provided or discuss the info with other technical group members. It was agreed that it would be best to postpone the next scheduled CLMPWG meeting until the technical group could meet and add their comments to the developing plan.

There will be another update at the September meeting.

Bio-mimicry interpretive panels – Montana Natural History Center and the Bio-mimicry Institute

Donna – the Biomicry panels fit with master park plan as it provides a method to learn about natural science in our parks. The funding for this project is from grant.

Sam Stier and Sherry Ritter from the Biomimicry Institute and Lisa Bickel from the MNH Center were present for this agenda item.

Sam Stire provided background on Biomicry which is innovations inspired by nature and is a major new direction in today's technology. It changes the thought process from what can we learn about nature to what can we learn from nature which is applicable to our own lives. Using this concept it was suggested to create a Biomicry trail using signs.

The Park Board earlier approved the concept of the Biomicry trail with panels. The action item today is to adopt and accept the panels for the trail as presented as well as their location and installation. There are five panels developed and staff as well as Janet Sproull have initially reviewed the panels. Once the final design of the panels are approved they will be installed this fall on the specified locations

Discussion:

Heidi – it would seem appropriate to be able to remove and replace, and rotate different panels.

Motion: it was moved to accept the panel designs and have the Biomicry group work with staff (Morgan Valliant) on installation of the panels so they are easy to maintain, and plan for a rotation of panels. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Village Place Sewer Easement – Highland Park – Gregg Wood (Public Works)

Gregg Wood – this request comes in response to SID 544 which is the Rattlesnake Valley sewer connection. The citizen involved with the sewer connection have asked to public works to look at this proposal which is more cost effective. This sewer in the easement is the minimum which is 8 inches, and is not sized for any other purpose or properties. The easement only benefits this property. The easement would allow for a manhole at the end of Village Place to provide shorter connection to the system. Staff has reviewed the easement and the easement includes language which returns the area back to its natural condition using a specified seed mix approved by staff.

It was moved to recommend approval of the easement. The motion carried and this recommendation moves forward to City Council as they have final approval.

Rose Memorial Park Firefighter Tribute – Recommendation of DRT, Staff and Art Committee

Rose Park Master Site Plan provides a process for installation of tributes in the park. This request made by the Fire Department is the first request to go through the design process. There were sixteen artists who submitted designs for the fire fighter tribute. The process for selecting the art work included a review of the Rose Park Design committee made up of staff from the Fire and Parks Departments along with specified members from the community, and Art Committee.

Six finalists were selected and after a careful review the Committee is recommending the approval of the design by Stuart Nakamura – the arc of life. The art work is made up of metal, concrete, stone and includes a stainless steel fire fighter holding a hose, with mesh representing water. The art is in remembrance of the act of saving lives by the emergency and fire fighting services of the Missoula Fire department. The tribute provides a small gathering place to reflect. The artwork doesn't impact any vegetation in the park, and will be easy to install. The proposed installation will occur in October and does not have any financial obligation for the Parks Department. The artist has created other public art pieces and is familiar with vandal proofing.

The Rose Society has requested preserving any existing roses and to include plant material in a landscape bed for easier maintenance.

The Design Review Team met and unanimously agreed on the selection of the Arc of Life.

Donna: a final review should be done by staff prior to final payment to the artist.

Motion: It was move to accept the recommendation and support the Design Review Team, and Art Committee for artist and location at Rose park as presented and to commend the group for their hard work. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Pleasant View Park – the Department still has not accepted this park as the developers had not yet met the specifications and conditions per the subdivision agreements.

White Pine Park –contracts were awarded for landscaping to Brugh Landscaping.

Pineview Park –is nearly completion with the asphalt work finished as well as soil and grass growing on the eastern half. The final completion is set for early fall. SID letters went out, and there is a final hearing on SID by Council set for August 10.

The RFP for playgrounds is complete.

LaFray Park – has fencing to finish and the playground.

HB 645 – the Department is working with Public Works on stimulus funds for park infrastructure. The City received 1 million dollars and Public Works and Parks are recommending transferring \$400,000 to parks. The State then needs to approve Council recommendation. The proposed projects are: Greenough Bridge, and 4 playground installations, LaFray, Marilyn, Sacajawea, and Boyd

Northside – the original request for CDBG money for playgrounds has been transfer to the Northside Pedestrian bridge project which will get \$128,000 as the funds could not be used for the playgrounds.

Tiger Grant – OPG is leading this grant proposal for stimulus money for non motorized transportation enhancements. Parks is working with them on this partner project.

Fort Missoula Regional Park - staff is working on the reclamation plan for the transfer of the JTL/KR property for 2012. It has been a good process and the master park plan has been an asset.

Additional Comments:

The next meeting is set for September 8, 2009.

Dale requested Tim Aldrich, and Ginny Faye from OSAC to attend the next meeting.

September meeting – will also include a presentation by Ben Carson the Urban Forester and Ken Wall. Staff is working on a campaign to improve the urban forest.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.