

Missoula Parks & Recreation Board meeting – October 13, 2009

Attended by:

Park Board members: Pat King, Dale Harris, Heidi McDonald, Tim Bechtold

Others: John Pierce, Jim Habeck, Tim Aldridge, Ginny Faye

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Rob Thames, Shirley Kinsey

Minutes: Minutes of September, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Operations report by Rob Thames

Staff is working on the Pine Beetle infestation in Missoula valley. Crews have been rehabilitating the Fort Soccer Fields with a plan of action to close one field at a time. The maintenance plan includes changing up the irrigation, re-seeding and top dressing the fields. Another project for maintenance includes the Mountain Water conversion from flat to metered program.

Greenough Park Update by John Pierce

Part of the program for Greenough Park includes hazard tree removals and this year the issue is with trees which are hanging over private property and no decision on the boundary survey. The original survey was done in 19955 but still has not been reviewed or signed off by the City Attorney. Staff has recommended getting an agreement with the property owner to resolving the boundary issue and dealing with hazardous trees.

The city also has received funding to replace the bridge at the north end of the park. Philip McCleing received grant money to restore the bear cage.

Open Space Advisory Committee update by Park Board representative, Ginny Faye and OSAC chair, Tim Aldridge.

Ginny: Acquisitions efforts have been more active this year with Jackie having more time. Several of the new projects include Marshall Canyon, the Spooner family ranch and Yawle. The Grant Creek Trail there is one signed agreement but there are letters of intent to negotiate conditions and locations. The Milwaukee trail project is moving forward and the trail is moving forward.

Action items:

Park Board fund policy: Shirley Kinsey presented out revisions on the parks Enterprise fund which reflects how the enterprise funds are being used. The department is allowed to request funds especially if staff determines the item is a risk management issue. Staff decisions can override the stake holders, who have been defined as contributors of more than \$800 if staff does not agree with the request.

Donna – the purposed of the enterprise fund was to collect fees come from the players to pay for capital items needed in the parks for sports.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to accept the revised Park Enterprise Policy with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

Purchase Request from Park Enterprise Funds:

The first request is from staff to expend \$1,088 from the enterprise funds to correct a liability issue at electric issue at McCormick ball field.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to expend the \$1,088 from the Park Enterprise account to fix an electrical issue at McCormick ball field. The motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

The second request comes from the Missoula Softball Association for \$28,000 for materials at the Fort Missoula softball complex. The material would be use to redo fields at \$5,250 per field. The Department will work with the College of Technology to move the material. The request was for the work to be done this year, but this is not feasible with work plans. The request is to encumber the funds for the softball fields for work to be done next spring.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to expend \$28,000 from Park Enterprise Fund. The motion carried with two members voting in favor and one against.

The third request is from Missoula Strikers & Montana Youth Soccer Association to expend \$20,000 for soccer field renovation at Rick Bean North and South. The money will be matched by \$20,000 from the Missoula County Park Board.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to expend \$20,000 from the Park Enterprise fund for soccer field renovation at Rick Bean North and South. The motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Conservation Lands Plans update:

The last working group meeting was held on October 7, with a review of the rough draft of all chapters except for vegetation. The final plan will probably not be ready for adoption until next February. The progress by the consultants was slowed down due to staff turnover.

An important part of the plan is to establish criteria to help with making decisions on issues which can resolve conflict with wildlife, recreation and other issues. The Draft plan is available and the next working group meeting is scheduled for December 10th. The technical group will need to review all the chapters and review and make recommendations.

The meeting adjournment at 1:30.