

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

December 15, 2010

8:30 – 9:30 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Dick Haines, Lyn Hellegaard, and Roy Houseman

Members Absent: Pam Walzer

Others Present: Shirley Kinsey, Bill Bonetati, Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of December 8, 2010 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

1. Review the Master Fee Schedule for facility use, reservations, contracts, permits, and programs for 2011. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Shirley Kinsey) (Referred to committee: 12/13/10)(HELD IN COMMITTEE)

MOTION: The committee recommends Council set a public hearing on a [Resolution](#) revising City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Fee Schedules for Parks, and Recreation programs, facilities and Concessionaires on January 3, 2011.

This document is the foundation for fees associated with facility reservations, concession permits, special use permits, conservation land use permits, rentals, instructor agreements, alcohol permits, and program fees. The process for annual review of these proposed fees includes approval by Park Board, Conservation Committee, City Council, and a Public Hearing. The proposed changes were presented to the County and City Park Boards and approved as submitted. Shirley Kinsey provided the committee with a summary of the changes for 2011. The changes include:

Section 1

- **Sports Facility Rental -softball diamonds** – rental fees will see a 5% fee increase for the 2011 calendar year. Staff recommends the total increase be allocated to the softball field - Park Enterprise Fund. This would increase the % for the Park Enterprise Fund from 25% to 30% of the hourly field rental fee. The Enterprise Fund is used for facility improvements, and to address any safety concerns that may arise due to facility condition. The Christian Softball League voiced some opposition to the increase as they traditionally have not requested to use funds from the enterprise account. The Missoula Softball Association will include the Christian Softball League in any proposed improvements to the fields.
- **Aquatics Facilities** – rental rates will increase 5% at both Currents and Splash.
- **Aquatics Daily Fees, Season and Annual Passes** – Daily Admission rates will increase at Currents to match the current fee at Splash Montana. Punch passes and Annual Passes will not be adjusted per this increase until next year 2012.

New Sections in Policy/Fee Document

- **Use of Metal Detectors in Parks** - It is the policy of the Missoula Parks and Recreation to permit the use of metal detectors in most City Parks so long as the activity results in no damage or loss to natural areas, highly maintained lawns, historical and archaeological sites. Specific areas where metal detectors are prohibited include undisturbed areas of Fort Missoula Regional Park that are within the historic landscape overlay, including but not limited to the 17 acre triangle parcel immediately west of Larchmont golf course, any area within the 82 acre parcel north of Fort Missoula Historical Museum, Parade Grounds, and Military Museum.

To regulate the use of Metal Detectors in parks, a Park Use Permit will be required with \$25 deposit (actual permit fee waived). Metal Detectors may be used to retrieve "finds" on the ground surface only. Absolutely no digging is permitted in any park, or natural area. Users of metal detectors may retain possessions of their "finds".

Dave – what problems do you see with this policy and how will it be enforced?

Shirley – the policy provides a way to identify users and we have found once you put a permit/system in place there is compliance. This formalizes the use in parks, and was developed by looking at other permit systems used by other cities.

Donna – Without an enforcement officer, staff has learned the best ways to manage human behavior is through education and outreach. The permit system will provide some measure of control and provides the citizen with options.

- Permit for vehicles to access private areas through parks/conservation lands
Private citizens wishing to access private holdings via park or conservation lands may apply for a Park/Conservation Land Access Permit. Permit fee is \$50 along with a minimum damage deposit of \$250 per 300 feet of requested access (\$500 for 600 feet, \$750 for 900 feet, etc...). Not all requests will be permitted if damage to property or safety is a concern. The permit fee and deposit will be refunded if the permit is not approved.
- Parking Fees in McCormick Park - Parking fee of \$10.00 per vehicle may be charged for vehicles who wish to use McCormick Park Parking Lot to attend Extraordinary Events at Ogren Park Allegiance Field. Use of McCormick Park Parking Lot will not be allowed if event interferes with regular business at Currents, or other regular events scheduled in McCormick Park. All revenue generated will be used for Youth Scholarships Program.

Marilyn – I am not sure about this proposed fee but I will discuss with staff later.

- Partner In Parks Policies and Associated Costs
The Partner In Parks Program cost will be determined by analyzing all direct, indirect and variable costs, taking into consideration alternate funding opportunities such as donations, grants and in-kind products and service, comparing initial fee to area market, including opinions and desired options of participants, and by reassessing fee and each program budget annually. Partners in Parks can take the form of, cash gifts and donor programs, improved access to alternative funding, charitable trust funds, labor, materials, equipment, sponsorships, volunteerism, memorial donations and gift purchases, sponsorships, and naming public facilities program.

There was some discussion as to the intent of this item and Shirley will provide a more detailed description for the Partners in Parks program prior to the public hearing.

It was moved to set the public hearing on the resolution for revising the Parks fee schedule for January 3, 2011. All members voted in favor of the motion.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Budget update on aquatics. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10)(**HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

Lyn had referred this item for a review of the aquatics financials with a year to year comparison. According to Lyn the financial reports sent on Tuesday did not include all of the detail she would like to see compared and she send an additional email asking for more specific information in the report.

Bill Bonetati – I received that email later on Tuesday and I will work with staff to gather the information requested. The summary reports I provided include a [three year comparison](#) for Currents, Splash and the two facilities combined. I also provided a [five month comparison](#) for all three years as well. The three year report shows the facilities are performing consistently.

The committee had several items they would like to see in a more detail report including a breakdown on various supplies, a comparison to the Pro Forma, projections for FY11, and narrative related to trends, patterns or concerns by staff. Other suggestions for a future report would be how to enhance revenue, an economic study on the benefits of the facilities to Missoula.

Staff will work with the Finance Department to provide the suggested information to the committee at a later date.

HELD/REFERRED OR ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS –

1. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
2. Reorganization of conservation lands advisory committees. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10)
3. Consider a new ordinance that will create a process and criteria for the naming of public parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10)
4. Update from the Greenhouse Gas Conservation Energy Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 09/13/10)
5. Approve an agreement between the City and Garden City Harvest (GCH) to allow for community gardens on City owned properties that will be identified in the future. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10) (Item tabled in committee 12/08/2010)
6. Appoint one member to the Conservation District for the term beginning January 1, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2013. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Kelly Elam) (Referred to committee: 12/13/10)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am