

PARKS BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2011
Regular Board Meeting
12:00 – 2:00 pm
Currents @ 600 Cregg Lane

Attended by:

Park Board Members: Dale Harris, Susan Ridgeway, Janet Sproull, Pat King, and John O'Connor

Staff: Shirley Kinsey, Jackie Corday, Dave Shaw, Donna Gaukler, and Morgan Valliant

Others: Jim Habeck

Approval of minutes of meeting from January 2011.

Regular Park Board minutes – approved as submitted

County Park Board – minutes – approved as submitted

Public/Guest comments - none

Action Items/Presentations:

Review and adoption of Park Board Guiding Principles and 2011 Priority goals (Dale Harris)

Staff and board met on January 11, to review and discuss the Park Board guiding principles and 2011 priority goals. The document was reviewed by staff and sent out to the Board for their approval.

Motion: - It was moved to approve the Park Board Guiding Principles and 2011 Priority goals with word changes made by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to dissolve the following subcommittees Mount Jumbo Advisory Committee (MJAC) and Conservation Lands Technical Working Group (CLTWG), and to recommend City Council dissolve the Greenough Park Advisory Committee (GPAC) and replace with Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) with responsibilities as outlined in draft bylaws, and direct staff to develop application process and materials for new CLAC (Janet Sproull)

The subcommittee of the Park Board, who was appointed to look at Goal One, Chapter Six on the restructuring of the subcommittees met and included Marilyn Marler in the discussion to dissolve all the advisory committees and restructure to one committee which will be named Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC).

Jackie drafted by-laws for CLAC with a lot of input from the subcommittee. During the last MJAC meeting although there wasn't a quorum, there was general consensus that those committee members understood the process and agree with the dissolution of MJAC. Kevin Verlanic (CLTWG member) agreed the dissolution of CLTWG made sense as the group was formed as an interim advisory committee.

Jackie and Morgan met recently with GPAC to discuss the merger proposal. The majority of the committee feel the committee needed to remain as is. There is some overall confusion as to the role of GPAC. There will be several committee members speaking at the conservation committee tomorrow during the public comment period.

Staff is contacting the Greenough heirs to present the proposal to dissolve GPAC but retain the intent of the decree with the new CLAC. GPAC members had several questions regarding the draft by-laws and also would request an annual field trip per the decree.

The decision to retain or dissolve GPAC will be determined by City Council as GPAC is appointed by the Mayor, through a resolution by Council.

The Parks Board discussed the pros and cons of replacing the three subcommittees with CLAC. Per staff recommendation, the board needed to make two motions, one to dissolve the two boards appointed by Park

Board and the second to make a recommendation to Council in regards to GPAC. The by-laws for MJAC included the ability to disband the committee. It would benefit staff to have to attend fewer meetings and reduce prep time. The new CLAC is specifically designed to work on the issues for all conservation lands, not just one specific area.

Jim Habeck would recommend GPAC stay as he doesn't want Greenough Park to be lumped in with conservation lands.

Morgan – Greenough is defined as a public land natural area – and is not like Mount Jumbo or the North Hills.

MOTION - (2)

The Missoula Parks and Recreation Board recommends dissolving the following subcommittees Mount Jumbo Advisory Committee (MJAC) and Conservation Lands Technical Working Group (CLTWG) and replace with Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC). The Board also would like to acknowledge the years of devoted service and standard of excellence set by these two advisory committees. The Board further recommends appointing Janet Sproull as the Park Board liaison to maintain continuity and excellence.

Vote: motion passed unanimously

The Missoula Parks and Recreation Board recommends the Council delay passing the resolution to dissolve the Greenough Park Advisory Group (GPAC) until CLAC is fully formed so that staff and CLAC can work with GPAC and the Greenough Park heirs that it are the best interest of overall ecosystem for parks and the preservation of Greenough Park.

Vote: motion passed unanimously

Discussion items: Park Board Liaison, Sub-committees and Staff Reports

OSAC report – Beth Hahn – (Park Board Appointed Liaison)

Beth Hahn reported that during the February meeting of OSAC there was a review, and rough cut evaluation done for another proposed acquisition in east Missoula that will allow the extension of the Kim Williams trail. In December the committee members were tasked with coming up with their top 3 priorities for open space and provide suggestions on things that could be improved. For many committee members, the North Hills is seen as a top priority along with trails. The past year there were more acres protected than any other year for a total of 1,700 acres. This year will be seen as a challenge as there is a lack of funding from the City's usual partners. The focus for the committee will be the Franklin to the Fort neighborhood which needs additional parkland along with the need for a community park, trails and open space in the Mullan area.

The rough cut evaluation was done on the Jacobs property which is 65 acres bisected by Deer Creek Road and connects to the bluff overlook. FVLT has already bought the property and will sell half of the acreage on the west side of Deer Creek Road at a reduced rate to the Deer Creek Shooting range and gift the other half to Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This will provide a connection to the Milwaukee trail to be continued on to East Missoula.

Presentation by Non-Motorized/Trails/Park Design (Dave Shaw)

In 2011, Dave has worked on three major trail projects. He updated the board on the Milwaukee trail including an outline of where the trail will go through the neighborhood from Russell to Reserve. The contract for construction was awarded last night to Jensen with construction to begin early this spring. The trail will include the use of way finding signage to navigate through the neighborhood. The Milwaukee railroad has given approval for use of their logo on the trail signs. Part of the project is funded by MRA for a section of the trail and a light project from the Underpass to Garfield.

Two other projects Dave is working on include a filling in a gap along the Bitterroot Spur trail section from South Avenue to Livingston and the extension of Kim Williams to connect Kim Williams to the Canyon River Golf Course trail.

Updates:

Fort Missoula Regional Park (Park Board Subcommittee John O'Connor)

The capital campaign is moving forward with the formation of sub-committees. There was a meeting with the County Commissioners on their plans and a request for a development statement for their portion of the park.

The goal of the Friends of Fort Missoula group is to acquire private funding before asking the public and city for funds.

Tree Board – (Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, and Pat King) – Ben and Donna met with Marilyn Marler on a preferred budget approach for Urban Forest which would double the current budget and create a pro active department. The makeup for a Friends of the Urban Forestry is being develop with the goal to have a committee that would not be an advisory board but rather volunteer for tasks to include fund raising, education and advocacy. There is a fund raiser scheduled for early march at the Kettlehouse and then a guest speaker, Mike Garvey will do a free tree talk at the public library.

Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison) – No Report

Whitaker Park Citizen Interest– (John O'Connor)

A group of citizens is interested in making improvements at Whitaker Park. The group has met with Donna and wants to move forward to raise private funds to leverage with city dollars.

Comments and/or Staff Reports

Dale Harris -thanked Jim Habeck for his presence at the Park Board meetings.

Systems manager interviews will occur on February 14, 2011 with staff and park board involved.

John O'Connor – I feel it is important as board member that we don't always just agree, but we question and this is not attacking but critical thinking.

The Aquatics report presented to Council was submitted in packet, will be done as an annual report.

Pending items (March)

- Glacier Lake Missoula Markers by Representatives of GLM (Ice Age Institute)
- Playfair Little League use agreement (Donna Gaukler)
- Naming Policy – (Jackie Corday)
- Garden Policy- (Jackie Corday)
- CLM – citizen request for amendment to the Plan (Park Board)

Adjournment at 2:00 pm.