

PARKS BOARD MEETING

September 13, 2011

Attended by: Dale Harris, Norma Nickerson, Ross Mollenhauer, Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, John O'Connor, and Johanna Eisenmann

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Shirley Kinsey, David Shaw, Alan White, and Jackie Corday

Others: Beth Hahn, Jim Habeck

Approval of minutes of meeting from August 2011. Minutes approved with correction from July to September for the Friends of Urban Forest meeting date.

Public/Guest comments - none

Announcements - none

Action Items/Presentations:

OSAC update – Beth Hahn, Park Board liaison for Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

In December OSAC does an annual review of the current open space areas and develops a priority work plan to determine what projects to focus on for the coming year. The plan is driven by opportunity, geography, need, potential partnerships, funding, and different type of open space lands. This year the plan included the following projects:

- Franklin to Fort Neighborhood, acquisition of motor pool site
- Mullan – airport and landowners private park
- Trails
 - Milwaukee trail
 - Kim Williams trail easements
 - Bitterroot Branch Trail
 - Rimel to Hillview
- Elk Corridor – through Grant Creek
- Bike Ped – infrastructure funding, Transportation bill funding opportunities

There is approximately 2.4 million dollars remaining in 2006 Open Space Bond and a balance of \$385,000 in the 1995 Open Space Bond.

Glacial Lake Missoula Marker on Jumbo, above “L” (Morgan Valliant)

The two Glacier Lake Missoula boulders (markers) at the Pengelly and the backbone trail of Jumbo have been installed. The work was done in conjunction with the Conservation Lands staff operating the equipment and the Ice Institute providing volunteers for the labor. Based on the experience gained from the installation of the first markers, staff's recommendation is to install the 3rd boulder at the Mount Jumbo location. The process will not involve any motorized transportation on the trail and staff is satisfied with the system used on the other installations.

Motion: It was moved to follow staff recommendation to approve installation of the 3rd boulder at the Mount Jumbo location. The motion passed unanimously.

Current status of Little League use agreement at Playfair Park ((Shirley Kinsey) - Larry Schock, (President of Mount Sentinel Little League)

There has been positive progress made this year on the collaborative efforts of the Parks Department and Little League to develop a new agreement and contract. The agreement is still a draft and the final will resemble the draft interim agreement. The agreement provides language as to who does what and when for the management of the fields. Little League provided users numbers and schedules which was then entering into the Class software system. This helps staff provide a report reflecting accurate rental hours.

Donna – prior to this the Mount Sentinel Little League had a five year use agreement, with no previous agreement in place in the prior 25 years. When the current agreement was expiring, staff hired a facilitator to work through the next agreement process with Parks staff, the YMCA, Little League, and other park users. The group shared guiding principles related to multi use, what each group needed for success, the acknowledgment of playing field shortage in Missoula and used the process to draft an interim agreement. The document will be finalized later this fall.

Larry Schock – through the process there was positive interaction and was a good process for both entities. It provided a means for transparency as well as method for equitable treatment for all users.

Discussion – It was request to have the Board review the final document once it is available. The goal is to bring the final agreement to the Park Board in December 2011.

Discussion items:

Public meetings and communications - per City Attorney Nugent

- All emails are public records, City Council must post emails for review
- Any discussion on items in an email could be required to be posted unless it didn't include city staff or quorum of the park board.
- Nugent suggested including staff an all board members emails

Discussion: The board agreed that all email must be done transmitted using the public scrutiny test. If there is an email discussion among the board members but no decisions are made, the email would not elicit any red flags. In conclusion it was recommended to just use discretion with email.

DOJ rules regarding ADA – David Selvage & Jackie Corday

The Dept of Justice has streamlined rules which now don't restrict non motorized vehicles, without having a motor vehicle use plan in place. Parks will be evaluating the trail system, including hills, and commuter trails. With the current rule any kind of access is allowed until you complete the planning document. Once there is a motor vehicle us plan in place, motorized transportation can be excluded.

John – does the user have to show burden of proof?

David - Not right now the municipality must first go through process to implement or impose limits of use, and then the user would have to demonstrate proof of need. The process will include determination of slope steepness, and soil testing. Final recommendations will be presented to the Park Board. There is not any funding to help with this evaluation process. There may be adequate information in the Conservation Lands Management plan.

Park Board Liaison, Sub-committees, Updates and Staff Reports

(Director, Recreation, Projects, Open Space, Operations, UF, TMH, NMT, CLM Administration)

Friends of Missoula Parks will be meeting with the members of Park Board next week to discuss goals.

Fort Missoula Regional Park (John O'Connor) – there are two finalists for help with development of the capital campaign.

Tree Board & FUF (Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhauer) the next FUF meeting is October 13.

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

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (Janet Sproull) the next meeting will be on Sept 26 from 4:30-8:00.

Budget/CIP - no report

Staff report – Alan White, Project Coordinator

Alan reviewed with the Park Board his projects including:

- Past projects:
 - Aquatics facilities; spray decks, Splash, and Currents
 - McCormick Park renovation including– Silver Lagoon, restroom,
 - Bonner tennis court
 - Development of new parks at Maloney Ranch, Pineview, LaFray, White Pine
 - New playgrounds

Pineview Park was a good example of breaking the process into smaller pieces for smaller businesses.

White Pine Park was a good example of working with several partners and donations.

- New Projects
 - Milwaukee trail – not a large budget project but has a lot of public interest. Some of the issues from this project included how to contain costs and keep within the budget.

Other items to consider for the future include:

- Funds to support additional staff to design and manage own parks projects
- Quantification of numbers
- Work on standards for design and developments, maintenance, construction management
- Standards for hiring engineers, architects
- What are the future projects

Adjournment at 2:00 pm