

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

November 8, 2011

Attended by:

Park Board: Dale Harris, Norma Nickerson, Janet Sproull, Johann Eisenman, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhaur and John O'Connor.

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Jackie Corday, Dave Shaw, Jason Pignanelli

Others: James Habeck, Ginny Merriam

Approval of minutes of meeting from [October, 2011](#). – approved with corrections from John O'Connor

Public/Guest comments

MCAT and Parks and Recreation – opportunities for televised programming (Ginny Merriam)

Ginny Merriam presented the opportunity to broadcast the monthly park board meetings through MCAT. (Missoula Community Access Television) MCAT has available hours to fill and it was suggested to provide coverage of the Mountain Line and Parks Board meetings.

Members of staff and the board discussed with Ginny Merriam the role and purpose of MCAT and would it be worthwhile to film monthly board meetings. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to film a meeting or two in order to show how the board functions as part of city government. It was also agreed to propose to MCAT that rather than filming each month's board meeting, to film a specific topic or agenda item and follow it through the government process. There are other volunteer boards which could benefit by filming educational or promotional items, example the Friends of Urban Forest (FUF) and their efforts to fund raise or education the public on tree care. Ginny will provide MCAT with the Parks Board and staff proposals for future programming.

Action Items/Presentations:

Partners in Park update and [Request for PE funds](#) to fund Partners in Park project (Donna Gaukler & Jason Pignanelli) [referral](#)

The staff referral is to have the Board approve and support staff to move forward with the concepts outlined in the Partners in Park program. Partner in Parks is a program the department's staff has developed to fund raise, and market opportunities for citizens to donate to specific or general programs. Staff provided the draft of a P&P umbrella which outlines the program from an overall view. A grid showing the proposed programs or services was also presented. The major purpose of the proposed fund raising program is to provide a way to enhance the following:

- Volunteer program
- Scholarship program
- Mobash skate park
- Active 6

Staff has been working on the following fundraising methods:

- M&P license plate
- Round up for parks
- Dollar days
- Vendors
- P&P lunch
- Letters and brochure of request

Annual giving would be recognized each year based on tiered donation levels.

Staff also requested to use the miscellaneous park enterprise funds to pay the fees to create a Missoula Parks and Recreation license plate. Jason Pignanelli working with the noted Missoula artist Monte Dolack has created a license plate which will be available throughout Montana for citizens to purchase with the proceeds going to the Parks Department. Monte Dolack generously allowed his "Zoo City" art piece to be used on the license plate. Jason provided an example of the proposed plate. The application fee for the license plate is \$4,000 and staff is

asking to expend \$5000 from Park Enterprise, with the remaining funds to be used to market the plate and other partners in parks program and services.

Discussion:

Several members of the board were concerned that successful efforts to fund raise may result in reduced future funding of parks programs by City Council. There was also concern about approval of a program without knowing all the details.

Donna – staff will need this Board's help with funding issues. The purpose of the PIP programs is to augment direct programming costs and will not include indirect like staffing. The department has always been asked to provide youth programs which are subsidized by the general fund. Given today's economic climate, local government funding won't achieve the fund raising capacity for youth.

The Park Board requested to add the Friends of Missoula Parks, the 501C3 nonprofit organization to the PIP umbrella.

MOTION: The Missoula Parks and Recreation Board supports the PIP concept and the identified programs as listed, with language that the mission to enhance programs and not replace general funds for programs.

The motion to support the expenditure of \$5,000 from the Park Enterprise account was approved with five in favor and two abstaining. Several board members felt the program could not recover the initial cost and felt the design would not be successful in areas other than Missoula.

Appoint a subcommittee to work with Friends of Missoula Parks, Inc (FMP)

Susan – I move to form a subcommittee to come up with policy and objectives on behalf of Missoula Parks department, to be presented to the Friends of Missoula Park. The subcommittee can identify projects, scope and evaluate current projects, policies for FMP.

John – I would agree those issues need to be addressed but it may be better to have a request come from FMP. This is a board in transition and given lack of documentation, as the new chair of the committee, I am working on a board manual. This will include by-laws, and mission statement.

Norma – This should be a group that comes to parks with projects; maybe getting a wish list from strategic planning.

Susan – there is a need to clarify the relationship between the department and FMP as the Department's vision may be different than FMP vision.

It was agreed to appoint the following board members to the subcommittee of FMP, Susan, Ross, and Dale. The purpose of the committee will be to recommend ways for FMP to work better in helping Missoula Parks and Recreation reach shared vision and goals.

Discussion items:

Active Transportation Updates – MATP, Transit, Trails (Dave Shaw & Jackie) –

Jackie Corday and Dave Shaw provided an update on the Active Transportation plan. The 2011 MATP was adopted by City Council and the County Commissions as an update of the 2001 non-motorized plan. The plan Jackie and Dave reviewed and contributed to drafting the plan feel it is an improvement from the 2001 plan with more information on new ways to integrate non-motorized facilities into our existing streets.

Dave Shaw provided a list from the plan which is projects recommended for implementation and how the Park Board can be involved in the process.

The goal of the plan is to increase non-motorized use for work, school, social, and recreational trips. The plan is to help get more people out by bike, foot, transit, or using sidewalks. It involves further development of trails, greenways, connections to water, to safely move from one place to another. Another goal is to decrease bike accidents. Intersections with frequent accidents are identified and will be reviewed for prevention.

Chapter 6 of the plan is project prioritization with over 106 projects ranked by category, intersection safety, sidewalks, on street and trail connections.

There are 13 criteria used to determine priority implementation, including safety, connective, and significance, number of people served and past plan ranking.

The following projects have secured funding for these major trail connections:

- Milwaukee - Russell to Reserve
- Silver park trail
- Bitterroot Branch trail - North of Broadway

Future projects included in the program with funds identified are:

- Grant Creek trail – matching GCTA with CTEP
- Light project on Milwaukee trail – Orange Street to Garfield,
- RUX – funding by FMP, this project is being managed by Public Works as it involves street and trail connections – it will provide connection from Greenough to Duncan and improve crossings at Broadway, East Gate intersection, but does not address Rattlesnake Drive bike issues.
- Bitterroot Branch, North/Livingston – pursue easement from South to Livingston, a one block segment, MRA will fund engineering and construction
- Kim Williams connections: connect Kim Williams to Canyon River -

In the implementation chapter, there are specific action items, assigned to departments in the city. Currently Missoula is designate as a Silver level bike/ped friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists with a goal to be at a gold level. However, this will also depend upon funding with the next portion of the transportation bill coming before Congress in March. It could be devastating to bike/ped funding if the funds are not dedicated at least at current levels. The new proposed bill will not have dedicated funding, and requires everyone to compete with each other. The major competitor for funding is for wetlands mitigation and there is also an opt out provision for states. The current Senate bill eliminates dedicated funding for programs such as Safe routes to school and the Recreation Trails Program. Overall, there would be 300 million less in the nation spent on bike and trail projects each year. Park Board members were asked to be involved with contacting representatives who may impact proposed legislation.

Park Board and Management Team Goal Setting date and agenda (Dale Harris) –

The annual Park Board and management team meeting will be held on January 5, 2012 at a location to be determined. Staff will send out information from previous years strategic planning meetings. Park Board members are encouraged to send agenda items to Donna.

American great outdoors selection of Fort Missoula (Dale Harris)

The Fort Missoula Regional Park was selected as one of two projects nationwide for possible funding for development. This selection was made possible by staff and volunteer efforts.

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

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

- Fort Missoula Regional Park (John O'Connor)
- Tree Board & FUF (Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhauer)
- Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison) – No Report
- Conservation Lands Management Plan Subcommittee(Janet Sproull)

- Friends of Missoula Parks, Inc – (John O’Connor)
- Budget/CIP
- Staff reports – (Donna Gaukler)

Future items

- Farviews/Pattee Canyon Master Plan – December
- Pleasant View Master Plan
- Master Fee Chart - Dec
- LLBB agreement for use of Playfair Park fields

Adjournment @ 2:00 pm.