

PARKS BOARD MEETING

July 10, 2012

Regular Board Meeting

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Currents @ 600 Cregg Lane

Approval of minutes of meeting from [June 2012](#) – approved as submitted

Announcements

Public/Guest comments

Attended by:

Park Board: John O Connor, Dale Harris (chair), Chris Ryan, Johnna Eisenmann, and Susan Ridgeway

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Shirley Kinsey

Others: Jim Habeck

Discussion items: (12:15-12:30pm)

Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) & Federal Transportation Bill update (Jackie Corday)

Jackie Corday updated members as to what is happening with the T-Bill and the LRTP. OPG is currently in the process of updating the LRTP for the greater Missoula area. Dave Shaw and Jackie recently submitted a letter to OPG setting forth Parks' priorities for trails and on-street improvements over the next 5 years. The list included filling the gaps on the Bitterroot Branch Trail (North Ave to South Ave, 1/2 block between Pine & Spruce Sts, and west of McDonald St under Reserve and along Old Hwy 93 by Larchmont Golf Course), extending the Kim Williams Trail east to Bonner and west to Mullan Road, and making a recommendation to hire a consultant team to prepare a South Ave Corridor Study to determine the best way to complete a safe bike route from the University all the way to Fort Missoula along South Avenue.

In regards to the Federal Transportation Bill, unfortunately MAP-21, the new 2 year T-Bill, which just got signed into law on July 6th, takes dramatic steps backwards for bike/ped funding. For many years, Missoula has received approximately \$300-350,000 in CTEP funds/year, which has mainly gone to building our bike/ped trails. Under MAP-21, all bike/ped funding has been lumped together under one program that now has many other types of projects besides bike/ped that can qualify for funding. Additionally, funding has been cut by one third and cities must apply for competitive grants to receive the funding instead of it being automatic. Thus, we can no longer plan into the future that Missoula will receive CTEP funds much beyond maybe \$100,000. What will happen depends upon allocation. MDT has to decide how to allocate funds prior to Oct 1 when the bill goes into affect, and thus Jackie has contacted Ann Cundy (OPG) to set up a meeting with MDT to discuss importance of funding of projects in Missoula. Sadly, all LWCF funding was taken out of the bill and so we will have to see if another bill is introduced again to continue to fund the LWCF program.

Action Items:

Park Enterprise [Expenditure](#) – Ropes Course [Referral](#) (Shirley Kinsey)

Move: It was moved and seconded to expend \$6,850 from the Park Enterprise – Ropes Course for repair and improvements to the Ropes course. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Ken Miller - Adventure Education inspected the ropes course late June. The below elements have been identified as either needing repaired or brought to current industry standard.

- 1.) Remove the damaged "Bridge" element and install a new "Islands in the Sky" element.
- 2.) Install climbing anchor staples for staff "lead" climbing on the course for set up and other work and remove the damaged cable grab system (as new climbing staple anchors will be installed).
- 3.) Remove & replace the old deck wood on the "Catwalk" and remove the old platform not needed on the course (including removal of the old belay cable that does not meet course specs). Remove & replace the old wood on the "Swinging Chairs" element with thicker wood.

- 4.) Remove & replace the old plywood board that keeps people off the climbing wall when not in use – the old one is ready to fall apart.
- 5.) Install protection boards on each side of the climbing wall to keep people off it when not in use.
- 6.) Straighten out pole on the low course (Triangle Element) and shim it out to keep in “plumb”.
- 7.) Rental of power lift, insurance & delivery.

The fee (for materials, hardware, lumber, labor, equipment rental, insurance & delivery) = \$6850.

Fairgrounds Partnership Referral (Donna Gaukler)

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board approve the attached resolution and request City Council to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution. All members voted in favor of the motion.

There have been multiple public planning processes related to the Fairgrounds over the years. Through each of these processes, there have been common themes expressed by citizens such as improved connectivity, access, and enhanced aesthetics. This Resolution, when approved by all area land management agencies, encourages and supports staff from each agency in working together to accomplish the community's preferences. The Resolution and community interests also fit well with Missoula Parks and Recreation Department's mission and adopted plans. The County Commissioners are not set on a plan but do have an interest in a greater level of accessibility and greater use by the community as well as a higher level of connectivity of all the parcels. The County Fair Board is going through the planning process and the resolution indicates the common goals and how to plan, design, improve and maintain the fairgrounds. Donna reviewed the guiding principles with the Board.

The resolution would be adopted by YMCA, School, County, City Council, and the City Park Board as well as the Fair Board. This referral is to move to preliminarily approve the resolution. Final approval will contain all partners with any proposed changes.

It was moved to approve the resolution with one amendment to include the following language: (Supporting current successful uses and users, when the general public benefits and supports that use)

Donna will bring back the resolution if there are any major content changes to the resolution by the other partners.

CLAC Liaison confirmation of Chris Ryan (Dale Harris)

Motion: it was moved and seconded to appoint Chris Ryan as the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Liaison.

Dale Harris recommended the Board confirm the appointment of Chris Ryan. Chris agreed to serve on the committee

City Life Agreement (Shirley Kinsey)

Shirley updated the board on the status of the City Life agreement. (concept approved in prior meeting) The Parks Department is proposing to lease the gym inside the City Life Community Center, a renewal year to year term, with an annual management fee of \$36K. Anything over net revenue will be split 50-50 with City Life. The Department will provide an annual report by July 31 each year. Maintenance costs included half of cost of to refinish floor, any breakage in the gym due to our user. City Life will have a bank of 75 hours for their use. In accordance with Parks policy there is no use of alcohol or tobacco and City Life is not permitted to solicit for any religious or political. City life is not affiliated with any church but is a Christian group which promotes healthy kid activities.

The City attorney has reviewed the agreement and there are not any church and state issues and it would be discrimination to not to do business for that reason.

The board questions the insurance in the common area and suggested there should be clarification on what are common areas. Johanna will provide Shirley with language to include in the agreement related to insurance and liability.

Joint City – County Park Board meeting on FMRP (Donna Gaukler)

On July 31 the County Park Board will host a joint meeting with City Parks and DHM on the design for the county owned Fort Missoula Regional Park.

Tree Board appointment (Dale Harris) – It was recommended to appoint Dale Harris to the Tree Board. Dale agreed to serve on the committee.

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

Director, [Recreation](#), [Projects](#), [Open Space](#), [Operations](#), Community Forestry & Greenways, [Parks & Trail Design & Development](#), [Conservation Lands Management](#), Administration

Fort Missoula Regional Park (John O'Connor)

Tree Board (Dale Harris, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhauer)

Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison)

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (Chris Ryan)

Friends of Missoula Parks, Inc – (John O'Connor)

- Ross, Norma, John, Susan, Tim, Phil, Helen, Donna

Staff Report - Rory Locke, Safety Coordinator

Rory started in September 2008 as the Safety Coordinator and is responsible for training and record keeping for workers comp and accident and incidents reports. Rory reported workers comp accidents in the Department have been declining. In the summer there are around 50 employees and Rory works with safety training, and coordinates with recreation. She also participates in the city wide safety committee as well as the chamber of commerce safety committee. Training includes Personal Protection equipment, CPR/First Aid and training on equipment as needed. This year Rory and the Parks Department will host the Playground safety inspector course.

Kathy Mehring stated she felt Rory has been instrumental in changing the work place cultures which has been the biggest factor in reducing workers comp injuries.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm