

PARKS BOARD MEETING - May 12, 2009

Attended by:

Park Board members: Heidi MacDonald, Pat King, Kevin Verlanic, Charlie Vandam

Others: Jim Habeck, Delores Bandow, Missoula Rotary Club

Staff: Donna Gaukler

Approval of minutes of both meetings from April 2009. Minutes of April 2009 approved as submitted.

Public comments: none

Action Items:

Appoint Task Force for Playful City USA -<http://kaboom.org/Advocate/PlayfulCityUSA/tabid/159/Default.aspx>

Missoula has previously been recognized as one of the 100 Best Cities. Staff would like to apply for a Playful City Designation. Missoula would be recognized as a city committed to parks and public play space. The recognition or designation can help with tourism, promoting the community as a play center and provides staff grant writing opportunities.

Staff is requesting the Board approves the list of names for the Playful City Task Force. The task force would provide the Board a semiannual report on achieving the mission of Parks and Recreation as well as the mission of the Parks Board. It is another opportunity for the Parks Department and Youth providers to work together.

Upon approval by Park Board, founding Members of the Play Task Force shall include

- Theresa Cox of the Missoula Downtown Association and a Carousel for Missoula
- Mary McCourt of the Missoula City-County Health Department and coordinator of Missoula's Active Kids and Daily Dose (of fitness) programs.
- Shirley Kinsey Recreation Manager of the Recreation Division of Missoula Parks and Recreation including program and play services in outdoor recreation, aquatics, sports, wellness, and volunteerism and community partnerships for play.
- Heidi MacDonald of Missoula Strikers Soccer, Member at Large and Liaison to Park Board
- Donna Gaukler, Director of Parks and Recreation, Adjunct Instructor in UM Recreation Management Program, founding member of Missoula's Children and Nature Network
- Rebecca Goodrich, marketing and communications specialist, Missoula Parks and Recreation
- Additional community leaders to be included in task force efforts include Missoula's Children and Nature Network, Missoula Active Kids Network, Missoula's Forum for Youth, Neighborhood Park, School and Playground advocates, Garden City Harvest, Big Brother and Sister, Montana Natural History Center, Mountain Line Public Transit, and others.

Motion: It was moved to approve the core list for the Playful City Task Force with note to be able to add willing partners from other agencies. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Resolution Naming Karen Kempel Jones Park along Milwaukee Trail (Rotary Club)

The Rotary Club has asked to name a section of the trail along the Milwaukee in honor of Karen Kempel Jones. Karen Kempel Jones had a profound impact on the community of Missoula during her course of life and was instrumental in the success of over 18 local nonprofit organizations. The entire trail will retain the Milwaukee Trail name, but this small section and trail head would be in honor of Karen Kempel Jones recognized by a plaque and dedication ceremony. Once all agreements for this trail section have been approved the resolution would be referred for Council for final approval. The trail fits all criteria for naming a trail and or park by the Park Board.

It was moved to recommend approval of a resolution to name the section of the Milwaukee trail in honor of Karen Kempel Jones. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Updates:

Budget/CIP process

Donna reviewed the overall administrative budget proposal and provided the board with a handout which outlined proposed budget reductions submitted by each department. There is also a proposal by Administration to reduce the City's contribution to employee health premium by \$100. This year Administration would like to have Council adopt a preliminary budget in June and once revenue figures are received finalize the budget in September. The Parks Department's budget reduction of 3.7% was achieved and the proposed areas of reduction will be reviewed by Council.

Old Business – none

Staff Reports –

Parks and Trails Design and Development Report (Dave Shaw) (20 minutes)

Dave Shaw reviewed his current park and trail projects.

- 44 Ranch Park – the construction for this park is being done by the Developer with the Parks Department taking on an inspector role. The construction is moving forward smoothly with the first phase of rough grading and drainage, topsoil, concrete, and construction of the main parts of a water feature. The water feature will be owned and maintained by the Home Owners Association. The park is 5.76 acre with about one million dollars of improvement. The City will be responsible to reimburse the developer for \$300,000 with another \$150,000 later for a playground. The developer pays all the costs up front. This is the first project using this process. In comparison to Pleasantview in which the City pays the costs to the developer this project exceed that development in quality of construction.
- White Pine – Streets and the College of Technology are working now on rough grading, and screening the gravel.
- Silver Park – the riverfront trail is almost complete and the timber guild structures are in place. MRA is doing this project with review by parks staff.
- Pineview – removal of structures and the first phase of this park is progressing.
- Grant Creek Trail – continued work on easements
- Kim Williams – connect to future trail on Deer Creek road, old tunnel by dam and into the new state land at the confluence. A new great trail connections and can get to the University District by bike
- Tonkin trail – moving toward construction this fall
- Firefighter tribute – art submittals

New Business or agenda items for next meeting

Shortage and condition of facilities for field sports: discussion on short term options (Charlie Vandam)

An accident during a soccer game at Rick Bean South. The conditions of fields and how to mitigate serious injury were discussed by the board and staff.

Shirley Kinsey explained the accident involved a player seriously twisting his ankle. She was forwarded a copy of a letter from the Helena team to the Montana Youth Soccer Association regarding the accident. She went out the Fort and walked the field and looked for the area of the accident. It was first reported to occur at Rick Bean North which is rougher than South. The incident actually occurred on Rick Bean South. She was able to location the exact area of the incident but could not find anything which would have been a probable cause. Paul Patterson, from the Montana Youth Soccer Association met with Heidi MacDonald and walked the fields four weeks ago as well.

Heidi – we took pictures of both fields and compared to the other 20-30 fields in state it was determined no reason to close this field as it was in similar condition to all others. Helena teams are not playing on the fields. Donna – we all agree to the conditions of the fields and the fact Missoula fields are no any worse or better condition than others in the state. We also agree there is a need for more fields but lack additional money.

There are not any written measures or standard to close a field or standards for a field. Montana Youth Charlie – are there any national standards to determine adequacy of a field?

Donna – standards from the turf grower industry would be the best.

Rob – we referred to the local associations and vendor as to what we could adjust to comply but without any criteria it is subject to the official on the field. Staff is now scheduling employees to weekly inspect fields and make repairs and record what is being done.

The cost to reconstruct Rick Bean North would be about \$60,000 for the one field which includes excavation and affect the irrigation systems.

Donna – a reminder at some point these two fields will be part of a parking lot and we would better spend money on new fields at the Fort. The fields are part of a CIP but no funding for the project.

Adjournment the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL OFFICIALLY NAMING KAREN KEMPEL JONES PARK AND TRAILHEAD ALONG THE MILWAUKEE TRAIL (RUSSELL TO RESERVE STREETS) (Exhibit to be provided)

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula is interested in providing public parks and spaces for the benefit of the citizenry of Missoula and the State of Montana; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula has obtained easements that follow or are within close proximity of the Old Milwaukee Railroad between Reserve Street and Russell Street; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Missoula has worked to put together a combination of private funds and public grants to improve this trail and provide matching funding; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Trail is identified in numerous community and neighborhood plans as a high priority goal; and

WHEREAS, parks, trails, and public spaces are named for historical, geographical, cultural, and important events, service groups, or citizens of significance; and

WHEREAS, Karen Kempel Jones had a profound impact on the community of Missoula during the course of her life here in Missoula, where, through her dedicated sense of public service and generous nature, she was instrumental in the success of over 18 local non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Board members and staff have worked cooperatively to name the parks and trailheads appropriately for the purpose of identification; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2009, the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board _____ the dedication of a section of the Milwaukee Trail, Russell to Reserve, in honor of Karen Kempel Jones as well as naming a park or trailhead along that section of the Milwaukee Trail in her name, the Missoula Parks Board recommends City Council name the trail accordingly; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City of Missoula hereby officially recognizes the contributions of Karen Kempel Jones to the Community by dedicating a section of the Milwaukee Trail between Reserve Street and Russell Street in honor of Karen Kempel Jones naming a park and/or trailhead along that section in her name.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2009

ATTEST:

APPROVED:
