

Southgate Triangle Neighborhood Council and Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024; 11:30am

Currents Aquatics Center, Headwater's Conference Room

Present:

City of Missoula Staff- Donna Gaukler, Parks and Recreation Director; Nathan McLeod, Senior Landscape Architect; Ben Carson, Program Manager Urban Forester; Jeff Gicklhorn, Program Manager Conservation Lands; Lincoln Lake, Associate Director- Developed Parks & Trails; Melissa Glueckert, Neighborhood Specialist; Kalina Pritchard, Neighborhood Specialist; Cheri Ellis, Developed Parks & Trails Manager; Garrick Swanson, Parks & Trails Design/Development Specialist.

Southgate Triangle Leadership Team- Mark Foss, Barbra Pulley, Bob Martin, Kelly Lloyd

There is \$60,932.28 left in the account from Cowboy Flats approved by City Council to be used in parks.

Donna asked the group what they would like to see in their parks.

Bob Martin:

The tree situation has been mostly sorted and are getting watered sufficiently however there were a few trees cut down inside the bike park and haven't been replaced. He appreciates the tree protection in Russell Park and would like to see more benches. He would like to see some small playground equipment in Russel Park for kids so they are not playing in the street.

Parks and Rec: The cost of a small playground would exceed \$60k.

The leadership team donated \$800 from their neighborhood funds to Parks and Recreation to be used by parks and recreation for bench brackets and lumber for the benches.

Kelly Lloyd:

Would like to see the Basketball court in McLeod Park be taken care of as there is grass growing over it. The irrigation improvements that were done has helped a lot at Bellevue Park. Feels that the landscaping needs work, there are weeds in many of the garden beds.

Barbra Pulley:

Would like to see a parking area for Belview park so people don't have to park on Paxton and would like to see the boulders removed. Sees that the badminton net at McLeod Park needs a net.

Parks & Rec: Tried to use a volleyball net, but it was too long for what they needed, this is on the list of things to do.

The leadership team ordered their priorities and agreed that Bellevue Park is on top of the priority list. Parks and Recreation agrees as this money was originally meant to be used in Bellevue. All other things on their list can be on a later list of priorities.



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Parking lot will be a low priority because Belview Park was not designed to be destination park. It would have to be a paved lot in order to follow all regulations and because of this it is a large cost. Donna also states that parks with parking lots are more likely to have urban camping or other issues with bad behaviors, no parking lot manages behavior on its own.

The leadership team enjoys the new Mut Mitten stations however there is no trash cans by one of the stations.

Parks and Rec: This is because of the slop; it is impossible to have a trashcan there. 3 cans and mitt stations are done and completed. Phasing out green bags, use neon yellow or pink bags for more viability.

Parks and Recreation has had bike racks installed.

Landscaping will be addressed and will discuss removing the boulders. They were put there in the first place to protect the vegetation. The neighborhood doesn't want Parks and Rec to get rid of the boulders, just move where they are placed.

The team would like to see a South hills trail map. P&R will put a sign on 34th at the end of the trail.

The team discussed wanting another well in Belview park to continue to water the trees because it is such a large area.

P&R: Due to state law, there can be only one well per parcel. They can do city connection instead however this cost is estimated at \$12-20k.

One of the team's main priorities is to have a bridge crossing the Missoula Irrigation ditch. P&R has looked into this and confirm the cost estimate to be \$45K to install the bridge. There is an existing bridge P&R have acquired and can place it at Bellview to add a crossing at the irrigation ditch, the estimate of the bridge itself is \$28K, a cost that will not need to be paid for. P&R anticipated that this bridge installation will cause an uptick in visits to the park leading to more of a need for park trails, benches, and other amenities. These are also important priorities to the leadership team. The bridge would not be done until next year if agreed on.

The neighborhood leadership team in due to meeting this evening and will vote on the installation of the bridge.



During the recent meeting, several key points were discussed regarding the allocation and improvement of parks in the area, particularly focusing on Cowboy Flats. Here's a cohesive summary:

Funding Allocation:

The City Council has approved \$60,932.28 to be utilized for park improvements in Cowboy Flats.

Cowboy Flats Park:

The tree situation has been addressed, with trees cut down inside the bike park; however, they have not yet been replaced. There's a preference for tree protection in Russell Park.

Concerns were raised about the need for benches and small playground equipment in Russell Park West to ensure children are not playing in the streets.

Most trees are now receiving adequate water supply.

Neighborhood funds have donated \$800 to Parks and Recreation for the procurement of bench brackets and lumber.

McLeod Park:

The basketball court requires repairs as grass is growing over it.

Suggestions were made for irrigation improvements to benefit Bellevue Park.

Landscaping at McLeod Park needs attention, particularly concerning weed growth in garden beds.

Plans are underway to install a parking area for Bellevue Park to alleviate parking issues on Paxton Street and remove boulders at Bellevue Park.

Equipment and Facilities:

There's a need for a badminton net at McLeod Park, as well as consideration for small playground installations; however, these may exceed the allocated budget.

Bellevue Park is identified as a priority, with other projects to be addressed subsequently.

The installation of bike racks has been completed.

Sanitation and Waste Management:



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Mutt mitt stations have been installed, with a transition from green bags to neon yellow or pink bags for better visibility.

Challenges exist regarding trash collection due to sloped terrain; thus, trash cans cannot be placed in certain locations.

Infrastructure and Connectivity:

Plans for trails and connectivity will precede the installation of benches and picnic tables.

Discussions revolved around the installation of a bridge across the Missoula Irrigation ditch, with cost estimates and neighborhood voting planned to determine feasibility.

Overall, the meeting covered various aspects of park maintenance, improvement projects, and community engagement, aiming to enhance recreational spaces for residents in Cowboy Flats and surrounding areas.