

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**

**October 8, 2019**

**12:00 PM**

**Currents**

**600 Cregg Lane**

**Missoula, MT 59802**

**Members present:** Chris Ryan, Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, Sonja Verlanic

**Members absent:** Dale Harris (chair), John O'Conner, Johnna Eisenmann

### **1. Administrative Business**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

Others Present: Madison Doner, KECI - NBC Montana

Staff Present: Donna Gaukler, Morgan Valliant, Grant Carlton, Shirley Kinsey, Becky Goodrich, Meg Whicher, Tyler Decker, Gretchen Sutherland, Annie Petschauer, Cassy Gladwin

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of September 10, 2019 minutes

Ross Mollenhauer moved to approve minutes. Sonja Verlanic seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **1.3 Announcements**

Donna Gaukler introduced Grant Carlton, Open Space Manager. Grant provided information on his education and experience.

#### **1.4 Public/Guest Comments**

No public/guest comment

### **2. Action Items**

#### **2.1 Appoint Subcommittee to Review Applicants for Conservation Lands Advisory Committee**

Morgan Valliant introduced the referral to appoint a subcommittee to review applications and make recommendation on appointments to the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee. The subcommittee would meet around the end of October and bring recommendations to November 12, 2019 Park Board meeting.

Donna Gaukler shared that Dale Harris volunteered to serve.

Chris Ryan - how many positions are open?

Morgan Valliant - four positions need to be filled. Of the four, three members are reapplying for appointment.

**Moved by:** Ross Mollenhauer

move the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board appoint Dale Harris, Ross Mollenhauer, and Chris Ryan to a temporary subcommittee to review applications and make a recommendation to the Park board on appointments to the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee.

Chris Ryan seconded the motion.

AYES: (4): Chris Ryan, Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, and Sonja Verlanic

ABSENT: (3): Dale Harris, John O'Conner, and Johnna Eisenmann

**Vote results: Approved (4 to 0)**

## **2.2 Appoint Park Board Liaison to Conservation Lands Advisory Committee**

Morgan Valliant introduced the referral to appoint a Park and Recreation Board liaison to the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC).

Chris Ryan is the current liaison. Chris announced that her term on Park Board expires April 2020 and she will not be reapplying for appointment. Chris stated that she is happy to remain as liaison through her term.

Morgan Valliant noted CLAC meets six to seven times a year with meetings ranging September through April and one in the summer. The majority of things CLAC does happens now; appointing a new liaison allows them to be part of the decision making process

Donna Gaukler recommended the action item be postponed until November so a larger discussion can take place regarding member liaison to both CLAC and OSAC.

Chris Ryan tabled the item until next month's meeting.

## **2.3 Review 2018 Open Space Capital Improvement Requests**

Morgan Valliant introduced the referral to review 2018 Open Space Bond initial capital improvement undertaking requests. The requests will move to the Open Space Advisory Committee for review and approval Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Morgan Valliant presented individual budget, overview of implementation and supporting documents for each capital undertaking. He asked Park Board to provide recommendations and verify if each request meets the goals of the Open Space Bond City Council Resolution 8276. Morgan noted the approval process of capital improvement requests is the same as open space acquisitions. Donna Gaukler stated the requests are tentative for the November 4, 2019 City Council meeting.

Wendy Ninteman - does the \$775,000 leave enough funds for other priorities?

Donna Gaukler - yes, number is below total amount approved

Ross Mollenhauer - what is the process between OSAC and Park Board?

Donna Gaukler - OSAC makes recommendations on open space; capital improvement requests were included in 2018 Open Space bond which OSAC reviews and makes recommendations. There is nothing that requires Park Board review items. Input from each group (Park Board, CLAC and OSAC) is important as they all work together.

Morgan Valliant - there is a good working relationship between CLAC and OSAC. CLAC will conduct site visits on space OSAC is recommending for acquisition. Once acquired CLAC begins working on a management plan. The plan moves to Park Board for review/approval.

### Overview of Capital Improvement Undertakings

#### 1. Reforestation

\$250,000 of 2018 open space bond funds is being requested to plant trees in parks and open space areas. Planting will take place where none exists and to renew plantings in parks where existing trees have reached the end of their useful lifespan.

Ross Mollenhauer - where is definition of open space defined?

Donna Gaukler - the Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan provides this definition

Ross Mollenhauer - White Pine is not included in planting area

Donna Gaukler - there is a plan to focus on White Pine separate from this request

Ross Mollenhauer - how many trees are being planted a year?

Donna Gaukler - about 150 trees were planted last year in public right of way; that does not include parks. Trees are planted when parks are new or at end of lifespan. Only 10 - 15 trees are planted a year across all parks.

Wendy Ninteman - are trees being planted as part of the river access request?

Morgan Valliant - yes but not included in this ask.

Morgan Valliant reviewed the budget for the reforestation capital project. The majority of trees will be planted through a volunteer program; will not take away from regularly planting scheduled in the Urban Forestry program.

#### 2. River Access and Restoration Project

\$225,000 of 2018 open space bond funds is being requested to begin developing plans to improve river access and restoration of riparian areas. This undertaking will involve several phases; the first requested would fund project development, engineering, permitting and public process. Work done in phase 1 will allow the department to properly bid later the projects in later phases.

Sonja Verlanic - what will funding in this request cover?

Morgan Valliant - funding will supply blueprint for project, form partnerships and provide clear idea of what project will look like when work is done. This is an accurate estimate of what it will take to make the project tangible.

#### 3. Conservation Lands Trailhead Improvement

\$3000, 000 of 2018 open space bond funds is being requested to improve all trailheads on conservation land. This undertaking is broken into two distinct projects.

Waterworks Hill Trailhead and Interpretative trail (\$135,000)

Morgan reviewed the scope of the project and funding sources.

Ross Mollenhauer - where will the open space funds be applied?

Morgan Valliant - 2018 open space bond funds will only be applied to the trailhead

Wendy Ninteman voiced concern that the proposed parking lot looks too small. Morgan Valliant stated that the parking lot design is a preliminary design and will be looked at moving forward.

Wendy Ninteman - will the trailhead include lighting? Lights provide security.

Morgan Valliant - lights will be included in the design process.

Ross Mollenhauer - will there still be street parking?

Morgan Valliant - no, there will no longer be street parking.

Upgrade all existing, secondary and local access points (\$165,000)

Morgan reviewed the scope of the project and funding sources outside of 2018 open space bond.

**Moved by:** Wendy Ninteman

move the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board support and recommend that the Missoula City Council approve expenditures of up to \$775,000 of 2018 Open Space Bond funds for the Clark Fork River Access and Restoration Project, Urban Reforestation Project, and Trails & Trailheads projects as per the attached exhibits (with or without edits).

Sonja Verlanic seconded the motion.

AYES: (4): Chris Ryan, Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, and Sonja Verlanic

ABSENT: (3): Dale Harris, John O'Conner, and Johnna Eisenmann

**Vote results: Approved (4 to 0)**

**3. Presentations/Discussions/Updates**

**3.1 Day in the Life - Communication & Marketing Efforts**

Item moved to December 10, 2019 meeting

**3.2 Staff Report - Developed Park Maintenance**

**3.3 Division Report - Recreation (Outdoor Recreation and Sports & Wellness)**

Shirley Kinsey announced Ryan Yearous, Sports and Wellness Recreation Supervisor resigned September 2019. She introduced Meg Whicher, Outdoor Senior Recreation Specialist and turned presentation over to her.

Meg Whicher introduced herself and staff that comprises recreation programming; Tyler Decker, Annie Petschauer, and Gretchen Sutherland. Meg shared that 2019 saw an immense amount of growth in participation and programs.

Gretchen Sutherland highlighted youth sport programs, Kids Fest and Russell Afterschool program. Youth programs offered include; Jr Playmakers Sports (soccer, flag-football, basketball, ultimate frisbee), super sprouts, and tiny sprouts.

Wendy Ninteman - does cost play a factor of who can participate?

Gretchen Sutherland - cost for super/tiny sprouts is affordable for families; cost covers 6 week participation.

Gretchen highlighted Kids Fest and noted this year marked its 25th anniversary.

Gretchen also spoke about the Russell Afterschool Program. The program is free for kids to attend, currently operates Monday through Thursday. The total number of participants is capped at 40; currently averaging 20-30 a day.

Wendy Ninteman - would the afterschool program allow more kids if there was additional funding?

Gretchen Sutherland - maybe, right now the number of kids is limited due to space constraints.

Shirley Kinsey - the afterschool program served as a pilot program with a goal to gain sponsors for other schools. The department is currently looking at a similar model with Lowell school.

Meg Whicher stated the department continues to host special events and works with local organizations for partnerships. New partnerships have evolved with camp programs, both summer and winter (Nordic ski). Summer camps combined this past year into one program to offer single day camp (any day of week), or week long park based camp, and adventure camp (some included overnight trips).

Tyler Decker highlighted the afterschool outdoor active recreation program. The program serves six different schools daily; total number of kids a week is up to 200. Kids are picked up from school and activities are held in different locations daily/weekly. Activities in camps range from fishing, skating, biking, hiking, etc. This program is offered year round, with healthy snack option. Transport to Zootown Derailleurs and Nordic Skiing is available as well.

Chris Ryan - do you have to turn kids away?

Tyler Decker - this is the first year we've had to; Thursday is the largest day served and is maxed out. Maximum limit is met due to transportation available and adult: child ratio.

Chris Ryan - where is pick up?

Tyler Decker - parents meet at McCormick Park for pickup.

Wendy Ninteman - is there a sliding scale for participants?

Tyler Decker - the scholarship program is available for this program but does not cover all cost.

Wendy Ninteman - are there kids who could sign up but aren't?

Tyler Decker - yes

Meg Whicher - there has been movement in community to address barriers other than financial which may prevent kids from participating

Meg Whicher gave an overview of two programs gaining in popularity and participation. Zootown Derailleurs (ZTD) operates 3 days/week in the fall and has

expanded to 4 days/week in the spring. ZTD is open to individuals ages 2 - 4. The afterschool Nordic program has partnered with Missoula Nordic Ski Club and will expand from 1 to 2 days a week this upcoming winter.

Tyler Decker shared information of department volunteers. Volunteer numbers are remaining steady with opportunities to participate year round. Meg Whicher provided information on the Morning Move program. Working with local partnerships and volunteers the department offers active play before school in 4 local elementary schools,

Annie Petschauer highlighted adult programs, adult sports, and special events at Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP). Programs offered include Missoula Movers, Generations at Play, and Yoga/Pilates in the Parks. In addition to tournaments Annie noted that adult sports saw over 2000 participants in department programs this past year. The 28th Frost Fever and Frozen Frolic took place at the beginning of the year and incorporated competitive timing for events. Missoula Parks and Recreation also hosted for the 2019 Montana Senior Olympics. A total of 314 participants competed in 14 different events.

#### **3.4 FY20 Budget/ CIP**

Item was not discussed

#### **3.5 Inclusion/ Equity Committee Update**

Training for Park Board and Managers scheduled for November 12, 2019

Donna Gaukler announced Cherith Smith from the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center will conduct inclusion/equity training for Park Board and Managers/Supervisors November 12, 2019 from 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

Wendy Ninteman spoke on community social dynamics and how the training will allow staff to learn what issues are at hand right now in our community.

#### **4. Future or Held Items**

None

#### **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm