

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Referral

Citizen or Organization Name: Missoula Aquatic Club

Main Contact: Jed Dennison

Address: PO BOX 7434, Missoula, MT 59807

Phone: 406-531-1216

E-mail: jed@zillastate.com

Parks & Recreation Staff Contact:

Referral to: Missoula Parks and Recreation Board

Requested date for Board consideration: 2/11/20

Referral Item:

Conservation Lands Special Event route approval and fee reduction request. The Grizzly Duathlon is planning a race along City streets, UM lands and City Open Space lands. Viable race routes on Mt. Sentinel include short sections of trail (non-road) use and would require a variance from currently adopted CL permit standards for large events. Additionally, as only a small portion of the event will be held on lands requiring a CL special event permit, applicant is requesting a fee waiver.

Motion/Action requested:

- 1) *I move the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board approve the use of the Mo-z trail on Mt. Sentinel for the 2020 Grizzly Duathlon as per the resource plan developed by Missoula Aquatic Club and approved by City Parks Staff.*
- 2) *I move the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board approve a fee reduction for the 2020 Grizzly Duathlon of 15% of entry fees only. As justified by the fact that only 23% of this race is being held on Lands covered under the Conservation Lands special use permit.*

Brief Statement regarding the action you want taken by the Park Board.

Approve City P&R staff to move forward with finalizing a Conservation Lands Special Use Permit with the Missoula Aquatic Club for the 2020 Grizzly Duathlon to include allowance of a large event on the Mo-z trail.

Background information:

The Missoula Aquatic Club is one of the oldest teams in the Rocky Mountain area. Since its inception, the team has made strides toward becoming not only

the powerhouse of Montana, but also competing at the Regional and National level. MAC is now one of the largest swimming programs in the state of Montana.

The mission of the Missoula Aquatic Club is for swimmers of all ages and abilities to perform at their personal best in an environment that is educational, supportive and fun. Through our core values of teamwork, sportsmanship, health and wellness, integrity and discipline, swimmers will develop skills to help them succeed in life.

MAC is a member in good standing of Montana Swimming LSC, and USA Swimming.

MAC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation as determined by the IRS, and is a sales tax exempt non-profit corporation registered as such with the State of Montana.

MAC is the new promoter of the Grizzly Duathlon and the Grizzly Triathlon. The purpose of the Grizzly Duathlon is to raise money for MAC and to raise awareness of the need for a new aquatic facility in the city of Missoula. MAC is hoping by holding the Grizzly Duathlon and giving the Grizzly Triathlon a year off that there will be re-interest created in multisport competition in Montana.

Attachments: 2020Grizzly duo resource and race plan.pdf
2020Grizzly duo bike route map.pdf
2020Grizzly duo run 1 map.pdf
2020 Grizzly duo run 2 map.pdf

Staff report –

Morgan Valliant comments: In an effort to reduce the impacts of large events on City Conservation Lands the current CL special use permit only allows large events to be held on dirt roads. On Mt. Sentinel, the Fire Road offers only a “there and back route” for large events. The Mo-z trail averages 3ft. wide with little to no desirable vegetation growing in the trail corridor. By appropriately staggering start times and numbers and placing restrictions on off-trail passing resource damage along this trail would be very minimal. Good communications before and during the race as well as temporary trail closures would effectively minimize user conflict.

In the past, the City has reduced fees for races held across jurisdictional boundaries. The Pengelly Double Dip, an annual race held mostly on non-City lands and/or Conservation lands on which no special use permit is required, pays only a portion of the fees normally associated with other large events held exclusively on City CLs.

Staff recommendation to Parks Board

Allow the Grizzly Duathlon to be held on the MoZ trail AND have City P&R staff work with race organizers to reduce impacts.

Approve a fee reduction for the Grizzly Duathlon. Final fee to be 15% of entry fees.