

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

August 11, 2020

12:00 PM

Fort Missoula Regional Park - Bella Vista Pavilion

2725 CCC Rd, Missoula, MT 59804

Members present: Dale Harris (chair), John O'Connor, Sonja Verlanic, Margie Costa

Members absent: Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, Daniel Gundlach

1. Administrative Business

1.1 Roll Call

Public Present: Gwen Landquist - Missoula Softball Association

Staff Present: Donna Gaukler, Shirley Kinsey, Corena Mauer, Cassy Gladwin

1.2 Approval of the Minutes - July 14, 2020

Minutes were approved as submitted.

John O'Connor stated the Clark Fork Island Preserve is a great representation of work the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) does.

1.3 Announcements

No announcements.

1.4 Public/Guest Comments

Gwen Landquist spoke on behalf of the Missoula Softball Association (MSA). MSA supports the request to improve softball warning tracks at Fort Missoula Regional Park. Gwen noted that plan didn't specify if all seven fields would be replaced or total cost for project. MSA would like to see final cost once complete.

2. Action Items

2.1 Elect Vice Chair for Park Board

Dale Harris called for nominations of Park Board Vice Chair.

Margie Costa nominated John O'Connor as Vice Chair to Park Board.

Moved by: Margie Costa

Seconded by: Sonja Verlanic

Elect John O'Connor as the Park Board Vice Chair.

AYES: (3): Dale Harris, Sonja Verlanic, and Margie Costa

ABSTAIN: (1): John O'Connor

ABSENT: (3): Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, and Daniel Gundlach

Vote results: Approved (3 to 0)

2.2 Enterprise Request for Tennis Repair at Playfair Park

Shirley Kinsey presented the referral to repair tennis courts at Playfair Park. Shirley provided information on the current state of the courts and noted the amount requested is estimated from previous years repair. The department does not have a current quote for repairs.

John O'Connor - can the enterprise account fund balance cover a complete redo of courts? How often are courts repaired at Playfair?

Shirley Kinsey - a total revamp of courts would be a sizable amount; balance would not cover all courts. There is a CIP for courts three years out.

John O'Connor - are new courts being included in the Master Plan for Playfair?

Donna Gaukler - yes. The life expectancy for asphalt courts is 15-20 years. The courts were last new in 2002; annual repairs have been needed. The total cost for eight new courts will be around one million.

John O'Connor - does department see any reason the amount requested for repairs will need to be increased?

Shirley Kinsey - no.

Moved by: John O'Connor

Seconded by: Sonja Verlanic

approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 from the Tennis Enterprise Fund to fill cracks and other repairs at Playfair Tennis Courts.

AYES: (4): Dale Harris, John O'Connor, Sonja Verlanic, and Margie Costa

ABSENT: (3): Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, and Daniel Gundlach

Vote results: Approved (4 to 0)

2.3 Enterprise Request for FMRP Softball Warning Track

Shirley Kinsey presented the referral to improve the softball warning tracks at Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP). Shirley provided background on material currently used for warning track, and communications between the department and softball community calling for improvements.

Shirley discussed the budget for the project. Five of the seven fields will be budgeted out of the enterprise fund account. The remaining two will come from Park Operations' budget. Shirley stated there is no current bid for material; department is estimating high end of cost. Excavation and labor will be completed by department staff. Shirley also stated that funds not used in request will return/ remain in enterprise fund account. Donna Gaukler shared that removed material will be repurposed on FMRP trails.

Sonja Verlanic - what is the balance of the account?

John O'Connor - \$103,000

John O'Connor - why aren't all seven fields being budgeted from the enterprise fund account?

Donna Gaukler - FMRP has its own operating budget. Re-purposing the current material will save cost too.

John O'Connor - any other needs that would need to come out of this account?

Donna Gaukler - no , not yet. The budget for program services is separate from maintenance.

John O'Connor recalled public comment from the beginning of meeting. Gwen Landquist had requested on behalf of MSA to see final cost of project. Shirley Kinsey stated she in touch with MSA's President and would provide the final cost.

John O'Connor asked what type of injuries MSA was experiencing from current material in warning track. Gwen stated road rash injuries were the most common resulting from players landing poorly. Gwen shared that traveling teams/ leagues voiced had voiced complaints as well.

Moved by: Sonja Verlanic

Seconded by: John O'Connor

approve up to \$34,000 of softball enterprise funds to improve the quality of warning tracks at request of softball programs and using fees collected from softball.

AYES: (4): Dale Harris, John O'Connor, Sonja Verlanic, and Margie Costa

ABSENT: (3): Ross Mollenhauer, Wendy Ninteman, and Daniel Gundlach

Vote results: Approved (4 to 0)

3. Presentations/Discussions/Updates

3.1 Director's Report/ Department Updates

Donna Gaukler stated the department presented an updated FY21 Budget and CIP Prioritization at Council's Monday meeting. There is 1.4 million in reserve for Park District; 6.5% will be held in reserve and one-time enhancement requests will be expended from the remaining balance. Donna provided examples of one-time requests and noted these are new projects not yet funded. Funds will also be expended for contract services in area of mowing and median care (routine care).

Dale Harris - contract services would be put on retainer?

Donna Gaukler - yes, on contract.

John O'Connor - how much of the reserve will be used to offset shortfall?

Donna Gaukler - \$435,000 will be allocated for Aquatics shortfall. \$450,000 - \$500,000 will be set aside for one-time requests. This will leave approximately \$500,000 as a reserve.

Donna provided update on department's work on equity, childcare needs for Missoula County Public Schools, and plans efforts on a Community Center at Currents.

John O'Connor - can you provide an update on Mount Dean Stone?

Donna Gaukler – a meeting took place last week on trail construction; progress is being made. Public process should happen mid-September.

Discussion followed about trail standards and how the trail can work for all users.

Additional discussion took place about improving trail west of FMRP (trail adjacent to park at West end), Madison Street walking bridge use and patrol by law enforcement, and condition of field turf at FMRP. Donna Gaukler suggested the formation of an ad hoc citizen turf committee. Committee members would be comprised of various user group appointees. Board members were in favor of this suggestion.

3.2 Subcommittee Liaison Updates

CLAC, OSAC, Tree Board, etc.

Donna reviewed Park Board Liaisons to CLAC and OSAC.

Liaisons to Tree Board, Caras Park Extraordinary Events Committee, and Missoula Art Park Extraordinary Events Committee were discussed in March 2020. Follow-up will be done to ensure board members are elected/appointed.

4. Future or Held Items

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 1:35pm