

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Referral

Citizen or Organization Name Missoula Parks and Recreation

Main Contact Shirley Kinsey

Address MPR

Phone: 552-6273

E-mail: kinseys@ci.missoula.mt.us

Parks & Recreation Staff Contact

Referral to: Missoula Parks and Recreation Board

Requested date for Board consideration: Sept 8, 2020

Note: Missoula Parks and Recreation Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at Noon in Headwaters at Currents, 600 Cregg lane. Complete referrals are due no later 8-calendar days before the Board meets. To gain staff review, please forward ALL info no less than 30 calendar days before a Board meeting.

Referral Item: Request fee category to Special Use Permit for Small Groups (under 10 participants)

Motion/Action requested:

I move the Missoula Parks and Recreation board approve the staff recommendation to establish a fee for small groups under 10 participants to the Special Use Permit. Establishing a fee of \$15/hour/class For-Profit business, and \$10/hour/class for Non-Profit organizations.

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

Approve additional fee category for Small Groups conducting programs in city parks. Proposed fees are not currently in the Master Fee Schedule 2020.

Background information: *(Why is project important? How does it benefit public, environment, City, parks, open space, trails, urban forest, and recreation program services?)*

The Fit to Fight (Cancer Association) and Fit4Mom (Franchise Business) are not the only groups who have expressed concerns about our fees associated with the Special Use Permit due to the small number of participants they have in their classes.

In the current Master Fee Schedule we offer a \$10/hr/court for Tennis Pros to rent courts to deliver private lessons, they normally have 1 – 4 students. Along with the fees we require copies of their City Business License, and the Certificate of Liability meeting MT State statute limits and naming the City as additionally Insured. The business license and insurance requirements would remain the same for groups using the Special Use Permit for Small Groups.

Currently Special Use Permit Seasonal rate is \$281 for up to 9 days or \$385 for 10 days or more. This breaks down as \$31.22 per day for 9 days, or \$32.08 per day for 12 days or more (generally those using the 10+ days are meeting 3 days per week).

I propose a compromise to accommodate these smaller groups:

Limit number of users to 10 or less and establish a fee of \$15/hour/facility for private for-profit businesses, and \$10/hour/facility for nonprofit organizations.

Suggested fee rate break down:

Current Special Use Fee	PROPOSED FEE SMALL GROUPS		Day/wk	Monthly	Cost	Savings
	For Profit/day	Non Profit/per day				
1 to 9 days						
\$281	\$15		2	8	\$120	\$161
\$281		\$10	2	8	\$80	\$201
10 + days						
\$385	\$15		3	12	\$180	\$205
		\$10	3	12	\$120	\$265

Attachments: (maps, photos, draft documents, budget, funding sources, logos, reference materials, other documents)

Staff report - more details here, listing specifics and dollar amounts, along with important facts and dates relating to referral. Has request been reviewed by Parks and Recreation Department Head and Staff? Have you responded to their requests for any changes or additions?

Staff recommendation to Parks Board

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Board establish new fees for groups under 10 in the Special User Permit for the interim. After this season we will evaluate the merit of the new fee structure and if successful we will establish in the Master Fee Schedule 2021.

Background Research:

Fit4Mom sent a number of examples where fees in other towns were lower than ours. I did not consider contacting the other states listed (Colorado and Idaho) as they all have a different option for supporting Parks and Recreation. The City of Missoula Parks and Rec is supported primarily by Property Tax, State Allocated Revenue, and User Fees. Colorado and Idaho both have Sales tax allocation for support of municipal governments.

E-mail sent from Kory Thomson, Billings Recreation Superintendent

Fit4Mom along with our Advisory Board formulated a change to our park permit policy to start including for-profit businesses. Previous to this year, we did not permit any for-profit use of public parks.

The City of Billings does not charge rental fees for public park use, instead we issue permits that include a permit processing fee of, as of July 20th, is now \$150 per park location/per season. Previously it was \$100. We would like to see a change to this policy and structure, to possibly resemble yours, but that has yet to happen. Our elected officials, when last approached to consider a change to the policy, decided not to do anything that would potentially impact the non-profit organizations that use our parks.

So some of what they are telling you is partially true, our fees are low, but they are only for the processing of permits. Interestingly, Fit4Mom recently decided not to pursue a permit for public park use because the insurance was too expensive and they wanted to use multiple park locations, which would cost them \$150 per park and per season (spring, summer, fall). I'm assuming our insurance guidelines are the same as yours (\$1.5 million per each occurrence and naming the City as an additional insured).

Background Information from Fit4Mom

Missoula Fit4mom is an exercise program for postpartum and pregnant women who are looking for a community of mothers to get out of doors and exercise with their kids in tow. We have been utilizing the paths and trail systems in Missoula for our stroller classes but we were informed that this requires a special use permit. This permit is unaffordable for our small group of 5-10 moms. It is our request that there be more permit types available or that this type of group not require a special use permit, as we do not feel that we meet the description. We do not require use of facilities, pavilions, or

other areas of the park. Classes are an hour long in the mornings and we move along the path or sidewalk. There are similar stroller groups in surrounding areas such as Billings, Coeur d' Alene, Portland, Denver and the list goes on and on that are able to function in their cities for free or for very low cost. For example, in Denver where the medium income is much higher the parks and recreation dept charge \$150 for a 6 month trail use permit and in the other cities I listed the stroller groups operate free of charge.

*Thank you so much for your consideration.
Sincerely, Jaime Medland and the moms of Missoula*



