

Missoula Parks & Recreation Board
November 10, 2010

Attended by:

Board Members: Pat King, Kevin Verlanic, Dale Harris, Tim Bechtold, Janet Sproull, Charlie Vandam and Heidi MacDonald

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Jackie Corday

Others: Nancy Seiler, Meredith Printz, Jeff Cyr, Nathan Howard

Minutes: The minutes of the October, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Public comment:

Nathan Howard – Chair of the Captain John Mullan neighborhood council – question on the proposed bike trail on Mullan road and whose responsibility to maintain the trail.

Donna – the County will be responsible for maintain the trail and the City has applied for Tiger Grant which could add an additional trail east of Flynn trail. Mr. Howard was given the contact name for the County Park Board.

Water Easement at Pleasant View Park on Flynn Lane

Jeff Cyr, DJ&A prepared documents for proposed water easement for Mountain Water on Pleasant view #7, Flynn Lane for Stockyards Road Investment, LLC. The request is for a water easement to construct, maintain and repair a water man line across Pleasant View Park #7.

Staff has reviewed the easement and is requesting language change regarding repair of the area to include removing sod, topsoil and subsoil and replacement in that order to eliminate swell issues once the work in completed. Ground swell has been an issue with past easements.

Park Board agreed with staff and suggested having a standard in the engineering plan stating the proposed specification for soil removal and repairs.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to recommend approval of a water line easement at Pleasant View #7. The motion was approved. The recommendation will now move forward for City Council review.

CDBG Resolution for California Street Bridge Project

Staff is preparing a CDBG proposal for repair of the California Street Bridge. As part of the proposal requirements a resolution of support for the project is needed by the Park Board.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution for support for the CDBG proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

Cherry Street Kiosk Panels

Earlier this year the Park Board recommended approval of a kiosk at the Mount Jumbo Cherry Street trailhead. As part of the recommendation the proposed panels also needed approval by staff and the Parks Board. Nancy Seiler and Meredith Printz presented the board with draft panels for their review.

The goal of the Parks Department is to reduce signs and create identifiable kiosks at major trail head locations. The kiosk should include rules, maps, and interpretation. The kiosk provides education and

promotes a higher level of stewardship for the land as well as a good communication tool for land rules, regulations and etiquette.

Five Valleys Land Trust is willing to host the kiosk site at the Cherry Street trailhead. Meredith Printz had contacted staff earlier in the year and presented an overview of project. Nancy Seiler and Deborah Richie Oberbillig were hired to produce the actual panels for the kiosk. There are three panels and a bulletin board for updating information. The panels include a map of the area, rules, a brief review of the winter closure, historic and cultural information, and photos, including those of the four Montana state symbols present on Mount Jumbo.

Nancy mentioned that some of the photos are only placeholders and invited Park Board members & staff to submit their photos for possible placement on the panels. Janet Sproull will ask MJAC members and others to see if they have MJ photos that could potentially be used on the kiosk panels. Janet also requested that Save Open Space be included on the list of groups who helped with acquisition of Mount Jumbo.

The plan is to have the kiosk installed next spring. The fabrication of the panels will take between eight to ten weeks. The kiosk installation will be facilitated by Park staff.

Dale Harris asked that the panels be reviewed by the Mount Jumbo Advisory Committee and would suggest including information for the Parks Department and expressed his concern for a panel dedicated to just one group.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to recommend approval of the panels for the Cherry Street Kiosk pending approval by MJAC. The motion was approved with one voting against the motion.

Staff Updates:

Conservation lands management Plan will not ready for the December Park Board meeting. This is primarily due to staff changes at ERG, the company hired to develop the management plan. Staff is confident the additional time will result in better product. Janet has provided corrections and suggestions to draft plan.

Park Maintenance District - staff is working with staff from the Public Works Department on a proposed street and parks maintenance districts. The two districts are set up differently by the State and for Parks the process is similar to creating and SID which involves calling for a public hearing, a resolution of intention, another public hearing and then a final resolution.

This is a proposed City wide park maintenance district with every property annexed by City, assessed by a taxable valuation of the property. Staff is working on developing a final number which will include providing a higher level of maintenance for parks, conservation lands and the urban forest. The current level of maintenance does not include any pro active maintenance on parks, turf management and facility maintenance and replacement. In past budget years the Department was to receive \$250,000 for capital improvement projects. Due to various budget reasons the CIP for parks has not been fully funded. It has been suggested to have the maintenance district funded at this dollar amount. Staff would like to see a starting budget with a higher dollar amount in order to fully fund the necessary maintenance issues which have been deferred in the past. This would include an additional \$360,000 for the urban forest, \$120,000 for conservation lands and one half to one million in routine park

maintenance on an annual basis. The park district would be an addition to property taxes rather than adding to the mil levy.

Discussion:

Tim Bechtold would support asking for a higher dollar amount now rather than trying to enlarge the park maintenance district later.

Update by Jackie Corday – the new zoning chapter passed, which includes a new requirement that any building permit for 10 or more units must dedicate twenty percent of the land for outdoor activity areas. The area must be accessible and meets the standards from the Master park plan.

Jackie was also able to go to Washington DC in mid-October to lobby support for various park programs. Dale Harris was instrumental in providing funding and contacts for this trip. Jackie spent time prior to the trip researching specific items, including programs for No Children Left Inside which is a bill in the Senate to provide funding for schools for environmental education in classrooms and outside, funding to train teachers, and money for partnering with entities like parks, Fish Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service and MNHC to take children on nature field trips.

Part of Jackie's effort was to work toward fully funding Land Water and Conservation funds. These funds are distributed to 50 states, and the funding varies from 900 million a year in the 1960's to only 130 million in the past year. If Congress approves a bill for full funding, Montana's annual share of the funds would increase from \$200,000 to 3.2 million a year.

Jackie met with the Montana representatives in the House and Senate to get support for livable communities, affordable housing in conjunction with non motorized transportation. Jackie provided the various office with pictures and feels her efforts were received favorably by the various politicians.

Dale –I agree with Jackie's assessments and we need to continue to demonstrate a presence and use Missoula as model to get additional funding for Parks. We will also need to continually follow up with the individuals in Washington DC.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm