

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

December 8, 2009

12:10 pm - 2:00 pm

Currents @ 600 Cregg Lane

Attended by:

Park Board: Kevin Verlanic, Dale Harris, Pat King, Janet Sproull, and Tim Bechtold

Staff: Shirley Kinsey, Rob Thames, Donna Gaukler and Jackie Corday

Others: Roy Houseman, Jim Habeck

Minutes: The minutes of the November 2009 meeting were approved with corrections made by Janet Sproull.

Introduction of new Councilman – Roy Houseman newly elected City Council representative was introduced to the Parks Board. Staff and Board members gave brief introduction as to their job titles or areas of expertise.

Action Items/Presentations:

Easement Request: Whitaker Park

Jackie Corday - Sarah Perry purchased the home in 2003 at 505 Whitaker Drive, and unknown to her, the landscaping and fence along the southern and western border of the property encroached upon Whitaker Park by 15 feet. The house and landscaping was constructed almost 40 years ago. She brought the issue to the attention of the Parks Department. Staff reviewed the area and suggested offering the opportunity to either move the fence back to the correct boundary or purchase an encroachment easement for \$3,465. The terms of the easement was determined are the same terms used for High Park. Criteria for determining whether or not to allow an easement included if whether or not there is any added value to the public for returning the affected area back to park land and/or does it add additional access. In this case staff review determined that the area and removal of the fence and landscape would not add value to the park. The appraisal price use for the Dvorak property was used to help determine the value of the easement. A separate appraisal would have been more expensive than the actual value of the easement.

Discussion:

Tim Bechtold suggested looking into getting the additional square footage added back into the tax base. Staff will check into the feasibility of this request.

The money will go into the cash in lieu fund to be used within a half mile of the area.

Motion: The Board recommended approval of the encroachment easement, with restrictions that no structures could be constructed and used for a yard only. The fence can be replaced and it is also recommended to require additional square footage added to the property taxes. The motion was approved with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Parks & Recreation Fees/Permits (Shirley Kinsey)

Shirley Kinsey reviewed the summary page which outlines the changes to this document which is reviewed annually and approved by the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board, the County Park Board and City Council.

The following changes include:

Section 1.4 Tennis Courts - Tennis tournaments will be assessed a non-refundable per court reservation fee of \$9.75 per court per day. If the reserved court is not used for the tournament then reservation fee is forfeited. If the court is used for the tournament then the fee will count toward the total fee owed on that court. Courts not being used need to be turned in five days prior to the tournament or the full rental fee for usage will apply.

It was discussed by the Board to add language indicating the unused court(s) should be outside courts and posted for public play. The tournament director would be responsible for signing the appropriate court(s).

Section 1.5 Football / Track Fields - Flag Football fields will increase from \$14.50 to \$14.75, this increase will create a consistency with fees charged per hour for soccer field rentals. Maintenance and upkeep during the season is similar for both sports. Little Griz Football program will be notified of the ability to layout and paint their own fields to lower their costs.

Park Shelters - In order to facilitate the two hour limit per day of amplification at the Bonner Band Shell the rental will only allow for a total of two hours of power usage, regardless of the intended usage. Amplification permit deposit will increase from \$400 to \$1000. If a party is cited by the Police, half of the deposit will be forfeited. Pineview Park will be added to the shelter reservation system at \$40/time period or /\$100/day.

Section 3.3 Resident Discount Program The Sports Associations and Team Sports subsidy covering non city resident use of parks facilities, sports programs, and sports facilities will be increased 5% from \$3,000 to \$3,150 to be paid by the County. This fee has not increased in over five years.

Section 3.3 Urban Forest - Cost share trees with the Urban Forest are variable, fee will reflect the purchase price of the tree, labor and equipment costs.

It was discussed as to who is responsible for enforcing policy. If the policy is in a resolution staff is responsible for enforcement. All ordinances are enforced by the Police Department.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to recommend approval of the fee structure with all board members voting in favor of the motion.

Staff will bring forward the recommendation to the City Council Conservation Committee this week.

Discussion Items and Updates:

January Review of Strategic Goals gathering for Park Board & Advocates, Management Team

The board will meet on January 12 at a later time 3:00-4:00 for a regular board meeting then move to Finn and Porter for a discussion on the park board guiding principles and how they apply to staff, and work plans. The room will be hosted by Parks Board Chair – Dale Harris with a plan to stay afterwards for a time to socialize.

Staff Reports – provided in packet, additional comments or questions

Mountain Pine Beetle Presentation (MPB) - Rob Thames provided an educational power point on the effects of the Mountain Pine Beetle on Missoula's urban forest and conservation lands.

Based on the effects seen in other cities the Department is taking a pro-active approach to the MPB infestation with the help of other agencies, such as DNRC.

The Department has been busy with an inventory and identification doing random samples on conservation lands. Part of the action plan includes planning and education and exploring management techniques to mitigate the effect on parks, trails and conservation lands.

Staff has been in training sessions on detection and working on an inventory of trees affected by the MPB, which later will be removed and chipped. There will be a public notification of the process to help educate citizens on MPB.

Pheromone verbenone packets will be purchased to protect legacy trees and deter the spread of MPB.

Park Maintenance District efforts (Donna Gaukler)

Urban Forestry – staff met with Mike Sweet and Dan Rogers on how to issues related to Missoula's urban forest. The Department received a grant for tree specific software. The plan is to take the old inventory done in 2003 and then continue to maintain the inventory.

The Department is faced with dealing with issues related to forestry, conservation lands management and park maintenance with a limited amount of resources. Donna has been working with Public Works staff on a park and street maintenance district. She presented the board with a draft version of a power point presentation which will also be given to the Administrative Leadership Team early January.

The board had several good suggestions and recommendations to improve the power point as well as ideas on how to get buy in from the public.

January items pending:

- Naming Parks & Facilities – requirements, sponsorships
- CLM update

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.