

PARKS BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2010

Regular Board Meeting

Attended by:

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

Staff: Becky Goodrich, Jackie Corday and Donna Gaukler

Others: Jim Habeck, Giles Thelen

Approval of minutes of meeting from February.

Minutes of February 9, 2010 were approved with amendments made by Janet Sproull. It was moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Summary Notes from Strategic Planning meeting held February 17, 2010 were approved as submitted.

Public/Guest comments - none

Action Items/Presentations:

Neighborhood Schools Art Installation at Pineview Park (Becky Goodrich)

The art project at Pineview Park will be done by the local neighborhood schools. Becky Goodrich has been working with the art instructor on design and implementation of the art work. The project will consist of hand painted ceramic tiles along a six foot wide recessed octagon in the floor of shelter. The budget for the project is \$500 which will cover the costs of the tiles. The Rattlesnake elementary art classes will paint a variety of wildflowers on the tiles. The border will be done by the Clark Fork school and depict the four seasons. Once the tile is glazed the plan will be to install all the tiles in June.

Motion: It was moved to approve the art installation project as submitted at Pineview Park. All board members voted in favor of the motion.

MJAC Annual report – Giles Thelen - ([presentation](#)) - The priority objective for Mount Jumbo is to protect Mount Jumbo as a conservation property. The three individual areas are: education, recreation and plant and wildlife.

Education-There has been a big effort to educate the public by posting informational flyers and signs at trail heads. Morgan has put out trail maps and a new map will be available soon. There has been an increase of use on the Cherry Street trail on Mount Jumbo. The use of kiosks is an important addition to the trails for education and descriptions of wildlife and plants as well as maps. Janet Sproull and Kris Csorosz were instrumental in helping with the cleanup of the trailhead at Lincolnwood.

Recreation – The leash program is successful with 700 leashes in use by residents. The mutt mitts are helping with the dog waste.

Wildlife - One hundred and ninety acres of pines have been surveyed for pine beetles. The Parks Department will use the survey to focus efforts on reducing the effects of the pine beetle on conservation lands. Various wildlife including Lynx and black bears have been sighted on Mount Jumbo. The winter closure on Mount Jumbo has been effective in protecting the elk.

Plant Life - The aerial view map is used for managing plants in the various areas. There are a variety of methods for handling weed control: herbicides, fire, sheep grazing and weed pulls.

There are a number of pros and cons to each control method. Any plant control efforts needs to promote the plants you want, so some reseeding has to occur. Seeding is very important but expensive.

Giles announced the annual Weed Pull is scheduled for May 1st as part of the Bike Walk Bus week. There are many native plants in the designate weed pull zone and hand pulling is the most desirable method. The previous weed pulls have been successful in reducing cheat grass.

Fire - Data on the fire retardant drop showed more exotic plants grow such as cheat grass. The fire retardant helped annuals (unwanted) and did not help the perennials which are wanted. Environmental conditions affect the success of seed growth and more data is needed.

There are other research projects being done on Mount Jumbo. Once data becomes available it can be used for management of the area.

Giles will present the Mount Jumbo report at one of the March Conservation Committee meetings.

Updates:

Naming Parks & Facilities – the naming document is still in the draft stages. Park Board members were asked to give input into the policy document. One of the main concerns is how to deal with a request to name a facility after or for a living person or organization. In most cases other cities policies regarding this issue do not allow for a park or facility to be named after a person until they have been deceased for a certain period of time or donated a certain dollar amount to a particular project.

Kathy Mehring handed out the Missoula County's park naming policy. The County Park Board is in the process of rewriting their policy.

There will be a subcommittee meeting on Friday, March 19 to discuss and work out some of the details on the policy. There could possibly be a tiered approach to naming a park, trail or major sports field. There also needs to be a set policy on signage. The subcommittee members will be Jackie Corday, Donna Gaukler, Janet Sproull, Heidi MacDonald and Dale Harris.

Strategic Goals, Budgets, Maintenance District, Conservation meetings

Donna expressed the strategic planning session with the Park Board members was well received by the management team staff. They felt the meeting was beneficial in getting to know the board members as well as some positive outcomes for the strategic plan. It was suggested to have a summer park tour with staff with a social event afterwards.

The City's administrative team also met and developed strategic goals. The Parks Leadership team will meet on March 17, to incorporate the Department's goals into a document along with the goals from the Park Board. Administration is also in favor of forming a Street and Park Maintenance district.

The City's administration is working with the unions on wage freezes for the next budget year. The next fiscal year's budget will see a reduction from two to five percent.

Conservation attendance – It was suggested to have the Park Board members attend conservation meetings possible on a quarterly basis. Their attendance at conservation meetings has been positive.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.