

PARKS BOARD MEETING

June 14, 2011

Regular Board Meeting

Attended by:

Park Board: Susan Ridgeway, Dale Harris (chair), John O'Connor, Janet Sproull, Ross Mollenhauer, Johnna Eisenmann and Norma Nickerson

Staff: Donna Gaukler, David Selvage, Jackie Corday

Others: Mindy Mason, Lynn Dickman, Jim Shelton, Sara Malar, Jim Habeck

Approval of minutes of meeting from [April 2011](#).

Minutes approved as submitted for April 2011.

Public/Guest comments - none

Announcements

Introduction of new Park Board members

Dale Harris introduced the recently appointed park board members - [Ross Mollenhauer](#) and [Johnna Eisenmann](#). New Park Board members are appointed by the Mayor and Council approved. Staff and board members also introduced themselves and explained their role within the Parks Department.

Action Items/Presentations:

Request to install Glacial Lake Missoula Markers on Mounts Jumbo and Sentinel Open Space (Ice Age Institute) ([Marker](#)) ([map](#))([PPT](#))

Members of the Ice Age Institute - The purpose of this presentation is to explain our proposal to place permanent stone markers at the highest point of the lake along the popular hiking trails on these two mountains. The entire Missoula valley was once flooded. While this fact is amazing in itself, consider that the waters released from Lake Missoula resulted in a flood event of planetary scale in the Earth's history. This event is crucial to the understanding of the planet and the last great climate change. The path followed by release of the floodwaters from Lake Missoula has recently been recognized through the creation of the first national geologic trail in our Nation's history.

There are four stone monument proposal sites in this presentation, and they are shown in numerical order of their priority.

The first priority site would be on the Mt. Sentinel Ridgeline Trail and this site provides a wonderful panoramic vista Hellgate Canyon as well as the Clark Fork Valley towards the Nine-mile valley, which was also inundated with GLM water.

The 2nd location is the Glacial Lake Missoula high water level (4200' elevation) on Mt. Jumbo above the "L". The second location is located on the point of a switchback along a trail that continues just past the "L" to the top of Mt. Jumbo. It has a nice view of the North Hills, as well as across the Missoula valley looking west toward Black Mountain and Deep Creek.

The 3rd location is the Glacial Lake Missoula (4200' elevation) high water mark on the Pengally trail on Mt Sentinel.

The 4th location is Glacial Lake Missoula (4200' elevation) high water level on Mt Jumbo backbone trail with a view to the west.

Installation of the stone markers would utilize existing roads and trails. An ATV would be used to haul heavy items, such as concrete mix and water for the base and the stone itself.

The approximate dimensions of the argillite rock would be about 30" long and 18" wide. The inscription would be sandblasted into the stone and the recessed lettering would be a dyed a dark grey to black color. The IAFI logo could be colored a grey-blue and the lettering above the "wave" portion of the logo will follow the contour of the wave.

The monument would be placed in a concrete foundation. In order to do this, a small pit would be dug, at least 3 feet in depth and wide enough to accommodate the width of the stone with 6" extra, i.e., about 12" in diameter. Metal rods that are 12 – 18" long will anchor the rock to the concrete. The topsoil and grass removed for the pit will be saved and placed back as needed.

Example of the inscription.



Staff report – Donna – the first priority site is not owned by the City but rather by the University of Montana and will need approval by Marilyn Marler at the University. The markers for the high water levels were incorporated into the new Missoula Trails map. Staff recommends the board approve the style and type of the rock and the inscription and installation of the markers as they fit with the landscape and Departments educational goals.

It was moved and seconded to approve the installation of the markers on City owned open space per staff recommendation.

Discussion:

The board wanted to ensure the markers would be as vandal proof as possible and the area would be revegetated after installation.

The 2nd priority site marker installation would need to be done using an ATV. Morgan had agreed to helping with this installation. However, there was concern and objection about setting precedence or creating public concern by using an ATV.

John O'Connor amended his first motion to state recommendation of markers 3 and 4 and hold installation of marker 2 until a field trip could be arranged to review the site and further discussion on the use of an ATV.

This motion was approved with all members voting in favor of the motion.

[Request approval for interpretive sign and installation in Pineview Park at Tom Green Park Trail Head \(Clark Fork School\)](#)
[\(description, panel\)](#)

This project was presented by Sara Marlar from the Clark Fork School - The interpretive signage will be placed on the existing bulletin board on the west edge of Pineview Park, near the trail entrance to Tom Green Park and Natural Area.

The interpretive sign will utilize student writing and artwork under guidance of professional writers, illustrators and graphic designers (see "collaborators" below).

The look of the sign will be consistent with interpretive signage in other area parks. No additional structures will need to be constructed, and accommodations will be made for existing postings regarding park rules.

The interpretive sign will be made of a high-quality powder-coated steel. It will not require maintenance and will be fade-resistant.

The interpretive sign project fulfills Clark Fork School's mission of community involvement, study of nature, art, and scientific inquiry. It enhances the aesthetic appeal of the park and creates a deeper understanding of its natural features. Such an understanding can lead to better public stewardship.

At Clark Fork School, students and teachers devote significant time to study and directly experience the natural environment. Integrating science and language arts, they make weekly visits to the Tom Green Trail, a local wild area along Rattlesnake Creek. Over the years, both students and teachers have deepened their understanding of the both the individual plants and animals who inhabit this wild park, and their ecological relationships.

Clark Fork School's mission is to build connections between individuals and their surroundings as the foundation for all learning. Teachers facilitate student learning about the world through developing a keen sense of the place we live. The Clark Fork School students and teachers are uniquely poised to share their expertise with the community through contributing observations, writing and artwork to interpret the natural processes at work in Tom Green Trail.

Panel Example:



Discussion:

Staff report – Tom Green Park is actually owned by the County and the panel has already been approved by the County Park Board. The panel would be placed on a bulletin board not currently used by the Parks Department. The placement is outside the riparian area.

The board requested ordering two sign in case of vandalism, and emphasized the fact that approval does not mean any commitment to maintain the panel.

MOTION: It was moved to recommend approval of the interpretive panel and location. All members voted in favor of the motion.

[Initiating Friends of the Urban Forest \(Tree Subcommittee\)](#)[\(App\)](#)[\(June FAF\)](#)[\(Email\)](#)

Donna – the Friends of the Urban Forest is a new advocacy group that will initially function per the advice of the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board. As the group develops, it will become a division of Friends of Missoula Parks, which is a private, non-profit 501c3 group devoted to developing park projects in the Missoula valley. Friends of the Urban Forest is not an

advisory group and will not direct the policies or activities of the City of Missoula's Urban Forestry Program, nor will FofUF make recommendations to governing bodies.

Citizens were invited to apply and applications were reviewed by a subcommittee of the Park Board. There were fifteen volunteers selected for this new advocacy group. The first meeting is scheduled for June 21 as an opportunity for the group to gather and meet each other. The next meeting will occur later in the summer after the hiring of the urban forester.

It was moved to establish the Friends of Urban Forest group with the selected founding members and to direct staff to help the group accomplish the goals established in the FUF mission.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion items:

Park Board Liaison, Sub-committees, Updates and Staff Reports ([Director](#), [Projects](#), [Ops](#), [Rec](#), [OS](#), [TDD](#), [Admin](#))

Director's report:

The majority of hiring, training, orientation for over 150 new staff took place in the month of May. The Recruitment for a Conservation Lands worker, Urban Forestry worker, and Urban Forest has been conducted. Pruning Pine Street will begin in July, with sites selected by the Ben Carson prior to his leaving the department. The funding is made available through the Park District Fund. The funds also supported the planting of an Additional 90 trees.

Council approved a \$24,000 pruning contract which will address 74 trees with 7 more hazard trees still need to be done at a later date. The challenge will be to continue to move from a 46 year pruning cycle to a seven years.

The City's Budget was approved last night with each department maintaining a 2% savings. Parks savings plan will involve cuts in utilities, supplies, contracts, and salaries.

Donna is part of the Childhood Obesity Leadership group through the YMCA, and Health Department who will work with hospitals, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, banks and other groups to address issues related to obesity issues in Missoula.

Another new park partnership with the YMCA is Active 6 which helps families by bringing programs to schools. The program addresses the need to bring active play to kids at low and no costs.

Fort Missoula Regional Park (Park Board Subcommittee John O'Connor) The Executive committee continues to meet and Dave Paoli and Donna will meet with soccer committee to discuss fund raising as it relates to the larger mission of the project.

Tree Board – (Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway)

It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules to nominate a new member to Tree Board Subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously. Ross Mollenhauer volunteered to be a member of the Tree Board and all other board members agreed.

Urban forester interviews – first round of interviews will occur on June 21, with six finalist being interview during the first round. The finalist will be reviewed end of June or early July. John O'Connor agreed to be part of the interview committee as a representative from the park board.

Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison) – No Report

Conservation Lands Management Plan Subcommittee discuss next meeting – (Janet Sproull)

There were sixteen applications to the newly created subcommittee. The subcommittee of the Park Board will review the applications and make recommendation to the Park Board during the July 2011 meeting.

Report and update on alternative funding and programs at Federal level – (Jackie Corday)

Jackie Corday and Dale Harris traveled to Washington DC to discuss critical funding on trail projects and transportation bill. In 2009 the hope was to use transportation funds for more than highway lanes but rather for sustainable transportation, not just highway lanes. The current focus is not to lose funding for program. Jackie provided State of Montana executives with photos of citizens across the State of Montana enjoying trails across the state. The representative enjoyed the photos and Jackie will conduct follow up as bills come out of committee.

It was agreed that Jackie is a good ambassador for the City and the State of Montana. The Park Board thanked Jackie and

Dale for their extra efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.