

## MISSOULA PARKS BOARD MEETING

**April 14, 2009**

### **Attended by:**

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

Others: Jim Habec, Sue Brown, Ginny Faye

Staff: Donna Gaukler, Morgan Valliant, Jackie Corday, Rob Thames, Ben Carson

***Approval of minutes of both meetings from March 10, 2009*** – Motion to approve as submitted was passed unanimously.

### **Sub-Committee Reports: OSAC (Ginny Faye) –**

Ginny Faye was appointed by the Park Board to be the liaison to the Open Space Advisory Board. Part of her role is to provide regular updates to the Park Board. This month she reported on the selection of two new members to OSAC whose background and experience will be an asset to the committee. Bruce Bugbee has been contacted to help with acquisition of open space as staff's time has been dedicated to other projects. Work with county Open Space board to help prioritize and cooperation on lands that are next to each other. Charlie Vandam would like to see the City involved with the County's priority Lands mapping project.

Some of the projects under current or previous review or by OSAC are the

- Chickasaw subdivision
- Grass Valley – the proposed easement did not go through. There is a possibility of a conservation easement at Council Grove.
- Airport Master plan for a 40 acre community park
- Marshal Canyon – 216 acres
- Spurlock – holding pattern – would like to put a conservation easement on the 1000 acres.

### **Updates:**

Conservation Lands Management Plan Process – Part of the process for the Conservation Lands Management plan includes updates from staff to the Park Board. Morgan Valliant provided the board with a presentation that he did at the first open house. The presentation can be viewed at the parks web site at <http://www.missoulaparks.org>.

The overview of the program provided the public with the types of Open Space, seven assumptions including community stewardship, not all lands can be managed the same, criteria for trail construction, and a flexible plan.

The working group will take from March through August to develop a draft action plan working with the consultants. There will be another open house in September to take public comment on the draft plan. From September to October the next work will be to review and incorporate comments into the draft plan.

Morgan also provided the Board with an update on some of his projects including:

- Sheep grazing research program.
- Vegetation management includes collection of seeds to be grown in the new greenhouse and mapping.

- New Trail map with funding from a Fish Wildlife and Parks grant. There are over 16 miles of trails and the funding will provide the community with map of the trailheads and designated trails. Education is important to keeping people on the trails and signage important to that effort.
- Other conservation projects include the removal of old fences which can help with keeping people on trails.
- Closure to help with management issues.

#### Public Comment

Sue Brown suggested a review of some of the parks which are still legally part of the County. Sue would also like to see projects from Friends of Missoula Parks to provide funding for the scholarship program. Scholarships – good chance put out brochure on scholarship program – a possible program for Friends of Missoula Parks.

#### Directors report:

- Pineview Park Demolition by COT began March 20. Alan White is providing construction management for this Park. A poster is on site which includes the park plan, rough timelines, and alternate play spaces. The trails connecting Tom Green Park and Pineview Street to Mountain View Street/Ped Bridge will remain open, except for short periods of time when construction will not allow safe passage. The Park is scheduled for completion Fall 2009.
- Lafray Park - Staff is working with the Neighborhood for purchase and installation of the playground and fall zone materials. The cost of the playground is approximately \$105,000 for fall zone and play structure.
- Staff has been a part of the legislative process and working toward a national campaign to convince congress to put money toward active and public transportation, and not expansion of highways. Jackie Corday has been working toward establishing the connection between affordable housing and transportation.
- Parks is schedule for the annual budget presentation this week with the Mayor's budget team. Part of the budget reduction plan includes less herbicide application and the reduction of port pots in the park system.
- Start up for Summer has begun with the opening of restrooms, and hiring staff.
- The City is working on development of new web site which will make access to information quicker and easily accessible.

Soccer field discussion - Charlie would like to see agreements with schools to rest the City fields and use their fields. The Schools charge \$125 a game which limits soccer clubs ability to rent.

Donna – I have been working on getting an agreement with the Schools since 1991. In the past the schools were not interested in allowing public use of their property. In previous use agreements with the schools they paid half the rate and now this has changed to charging them full rate for field use. Donna has another meeting scheduled with the Superintendent of schools and will report later on the outcome of that meeting.

**Adjournment @ 1:55 pm.**