

PARKS BOARD MEETING

November 13, 2012

Regular Board Meeting

12:00 – 2:00 pm

600 Cregg Lane

Headwaters

Attended by:

Park Board Members: Susan Ridgeway, Norma Nickerson, Johnna Eisemeann, John O'Connor

Staff: Jackie Corday, Donna Gaukler, Greg Howe

Others: Sophia – Grad Student attending public meeting – working on Hellgate Park planning process

Approval of minutes of meeting (2) in October 2012 –

It was moved to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes of October 2012 and approve the minutes from the special meeting held on October 29 with one correction to add Chris Ryan and not Norma Nickerson as attending that meeting.

Announcements - none

Public/Guest comments - none

Action Items: none

Discussion or Updates items:

- Park Board & Management Team Strategic Planning meeting. The Park Board and staff usually hold an annual meeting to review strategic goals and review events of 2012. This year it was decided to meet in early February rather than January. The meeting will be held late afternoon followed by a social. More information will follow once additional details are decided.

Staff Report

Greg Howe, Urban Forester – review of the urban forestry division and responsibilities

Greg provided the Park Board with a presentation on goals and accomplishments of the Urban Forestry division for the year and plans for the next year.

Accomplishments/Goals Urban Forestry

- Review of budget items for FY13, including a new stump grinder, \$10K for maintenance funds
- Planted 180 trees, removed 70 stumps and pruned 73 trees
- DNRC grant approved for \$13K for tree resource assessment using volunteers and City staff - This grant will be used to get information into Tree Works database
- Trees for Missoula (TFM) - the newly formed citizen group provided \$7,000 for data collection devices.
 - The first project was to design and hang "Water your new tree" door hangers at residence receiving new trees this year.
 - The next project is a pilot volunteer tree inventory. A new tree identification sheet was done and the County Extension service will be providing an upscale version of the Tree ID.
 - TFM also was part of the application process for the DNRC Grant to carry out city wide tree inventory in the summer of 2013
 - TFM will continue to do fund raisers.

Another part of the Urban Forestry Division is Greenways and Horticulture. This program is in charge of maintaining commuter trails and adjoining green spaces as well as landscapes.

Accomplishments/Goals

- \$32K in budget
- Purchase of a Toolcat
- Higgins, Miller roundabouts, Milwaukee Trail,
- EBJ park improvements
- Demonstration to BID clean team on how to take care of bump outs

- Safety procedures on medians -

Discussion on how different departments working with each other on projects related to sidewalks, streets, boulevards

John O'Connor noted and other board members agreed that it is important for the Parks & Recreation department to be included in the process of projects dealt with by Public Works and other departments which may or will impact the parks department including projects dealing with trees, boulevards, and sidewalks. Projects where parks staff expertise could assist in proper planning or where parks staff will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep should include parks staff input during planning and implementation. John and other board members felt notifications and other inter-departmental communications are essential.

Greg asked the Park Board for their assistance with the following items:

- Support for Trees for Missoula
- Consider the Tree Board scheduling public meetings to review the UF recommended removal list and allow for public comment 2-3 times a year – would replace letters for removals, pruning. Board supported letter but not a meeting to replace letters, put on the web – like leaf removal program, educational use of web.

John O'Connor suggested the use of an electronic receipt instead of hard copy to save money on mailings.

- Support replacement of the 1996 tree chipper in FY14 cip budget –
- Greenways – support increases in staff, supplied and professional services funding for new facilities, Higgins St, and Lower Miller Creek Roundabouts and Milwaukee Trail extension and small extension to the Bitterroot Trail
- Horticulture – current budget for flowers and other plants, limiting factor in how much beautification can be accomplished each years. Suggestions on additional funding source partnerships

Norma Nickerson gave a suggestion to find out how or if the Parks Department could be part of the annual UM giving drive which would go to parks. She will provide additional information.

Johnna Eisenmann suggested the property owners and managers of developments along Reserve Street would probably be willing to assist in upkeep and beautifications of Reserve Street medians.

Park Board Liaison, Sub-committees, Updates and Staff Reports

(Director, Recreation, Projects, Open Space, Operations, Community Forestry & Greenways, Parks & Trail Design & Development, Conservation Lands Management, Administration

- Tree Board (Dale Harris, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhauer)
- Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison)
- Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (Chris Ryan)
- Friends of Missoula Parks, Inc &- Fort Missoula Regional Park (John O'Connor)
- Comments and updates from Director

Donna reported on an upcoming agenda items regarding a project at Fort Missoula Regional Park. The Historical Museum will be hosting a Sign of the Times display which is how signage has changed and impact on society. The Museum will be requesting to install temporary signs on parkland along the guardsman lane. This a onetime only project and it is the Park Board's role to approve or disapprove all signage, names, are and exhibits in parks. This will be addressed in the December board meeting.

- Update on All Abilities playground - large donation to be announced
- Nov 28th – Fort Missoula Regional Park County land meeting by Board of County Commissioners

The Park Board would like to discuss the creation of a subcommittee to help with the upcoming budget season.

Adjournment - 1:55 pm