

Missoula Parks and Recreation

Board Meeting – June 9, 2009

Attended by:

Park Board members: Heidi MacDonald, Janet Sproull, Dale Harris (chair) , Kevin Verlanic, Pat King, and Charlie Vandam

Staff: Jackie Corday and Donna Gaukler

Minutes: May 12, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Reappoint Ginny Faye to Open Space Advisory Committee:

Jackie recommended reappoint of Ginny Faye as the representative for the Park Board to OSAC. Ginny works well with the other committee members and she is up to date on current projects. She attends meetings regularly and teleconferences when she is in Alaska

Motion: it was moved to re-appoint Ginny Faye as the park board representative to the Open Space Advisory Committee. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Confirm prior approval by the Parks Board members per Department's request: CDBG Resolution in support of funding for playgrounds.

The department was notified about an opportunity to apply for a grant for playgrounds with a one week time frame. Part of the grant called for support by the Park Board for the grant application. The board was asked through email to support a resolution of the grant. The Park Board already approved the resolution and this request is to confirm that approval. The Department did receive grant money to purchase two playgrounds, one at LaFray and the other at Kiwanis Park. The grant will provide funding to purchase the equipment and use the local labor to install.

Motion: The Park Board voted to confirm their prior approval to adopt a resolution for parks department to apply for a CDBG grant for playground installation at LaFray and Kiwanis. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

July & August Park Board meeting date (July 28/August4)

The board discussed whether or not to combine the scheduled July and August meetings into one meeting. The board will only meet once in the next two months on July 28. The agenda items for that meeting include approval of Bio Mimicry interpretive panels and an update on the Conservation Lands manage plan.

Budget FY10

The Parks Department was first to present their budget to Council. Council reviews the proposed budget reductions. Each department was asked to reduce their budgets for FY10 by 3.7%. The Park Board and staff worked together to decide where to cut and focus on keeping staff and low income

programs. In reviewing the Administration's proposed budget the Parks Department was one the few departments to make actual cuts as other departments were able to find other funding sources to reduce their budget cuts. The budget discussion process with Council will continue through the next month.

Conservation Lands Management Plan

The third public open house was held on June 3, for the Conservation Lands Management Plan. The working group reviewed other land management plans and their table of contents. Donna explained the existing plans the Department has in place and how they tied together. Other plans include: Open space, transportation, jumbo, vegetation, master park plan. That process included using the same format as the Master Park Plan was developed by setting standards, guidelines and criteria for managing land, and implementation and action.

ERG is putting together the baseline documents and the draft plan using the guiding principles of the working group. It is hoped to have something for review by the Parks Board on July 28.

Eric Seagrave – Aquatics report

Eric puts out a graph every month in the recreation report to reflect attendance and revenue for the two pools for the past two years. Eric has learned December and May are flat months with low attendance. Currents has continued growth and higher attendance and revenue for each fiscal year.

May was a good month for Splash Montana this year with hot weather on the weekends it was opened. Eric earlier had made adjustments for opening and programming to decrease costs and generate higher attendance. At Splash there were several changes made to give more opportunity for lap swimmers. Also a new float toy was purchased which has a component obstacle course. Additional components can be purchased and added later. The new toy goes lengthwise which gives the lap swimmers ability to swim the length of the pool rather than width.

Eric reviewed programming and attendance and is trying some new ideas to boost revenue and attendance during the shoulder hours. He added swim lessons and expanded on the preschool niche. This summer an after 5 pm meal deal was added to encourage the public to come and swim and eat for reduced price. This make it easier for parent to go to Splash during hottest time of day.

Another new program is Inter tube polo which has two leagues and will include a Tube Bowl for the two best teams a playoff.

Splash will close on August 30 this year to reflect low attendance numbers once school starts.

Park board discusses how finance and cash handling is done by staff. An audit was conducted two years ago by AZ which provided staff good recommendations and the report was favorable.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.