From:	Donna Gaukler
To:	"anthonyrboote@yahoo.com"
Cc:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Mayor Staff; bcc
Subject:	Fort Missoula Turf
Date:	Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:49:08 PM
Attachments:	image001.png Fort Missoula Regional Park Natural Grass Fields 6 17 2020.pdf

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Hello Tony,
The Mayor, City Council, and BCC have forwarded your emails to me regarding turf at FMRP and asked that I respond to you.

"Fort Missoula turf
Everybody who uses the soccer fields at Fort Missoula knows that there is something wrong with the grass. The fields do not drain properly, are often waterlogged and full of weeds and the goal areas are often covered in mud. For a new facility, this is, to put it mildly, disappointing and visitors are frankly baffled that Missoula has such a flawed newly built facility. As a Missoula city and county taxpayer, I am appalled that $40 m of our money has been so poorly used.
I hereby request that you appoint an independent inquiry to assess: the current state of the fields at Fort Missoula; how we got to where we are now; what options we have to rectify the situation and what maintenance should be undertaken by Parks and Recreation. Until we have the results of this inquiry and remedial action is undertaken, all future bond issues should be put on hold to ensure that taxpayers can be assured of achieving value for their money which has clearly not been achieved in this case."
Tony Boote

Please find attached our Department's written response to your email. There is no doubt that last spring (2019) we experienced the near perfect storm of late winter snow cover, very heavy sports use, plus considerable rain during some of the largest turf events.

Use of fields since development of FMRP has grown exponentially. We have hosted the largest tournaments in Missoula's history in most sports. Earlier this year, Parks and Recreation met with our largest and most avid user groups. We have some hard choices to make regarding levels of use during shoulder seasons, when grass has minimal ability to grow, and during or immediately after heavy rain. To date, we have allowed for maximum play, particularly for travel tournaments.

When we met with the representatives of those largest user groups, MP&R explained some of the internal changes we have made to increase our efforts at providing quality turf while trying to meet the overwhelming demands that are likely not sustainable long term. This spring has been interesting in that the turf is rebounding very well given the first chance to rest during growing season, since opening day April 29, 2017.

I am not sure when you last used the fields, but TJ, our Maintenance Manager, would be happy to visit with you on site so you can specifically show him your concerns.

Donna

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