

PARKS BOARD MEETING

October 9, 2012

Regular Board Meeting

12:00 – 2:00 pm

600 Cregg Lane

Headwaters

Attended by:

Park Board: John O'Connor, Chris Ryan, Susan Ridgeway, Ross, Dale Harris

Staff: Ryan Yearous, Eric Seagrave, Shirley Kinsey, Jason Pignanelli, and Donna Gaukler

Others: Jim Habeck

Approval of minutes of meeting from [September 2012](#) – Minutes were approved with the following addition from John O'Conner: The Park Board discussed how projects are prioritized and funded through the CDBG process.

Approval of minutes of meeting from Joint Meeting with County [July 2012](#) – minutes approved as submitted.

Announcements

Public/Guest comments

Habeck – how are projects at Rose Park decided and I don't want Greenough Park Advisory Board to become part of CLAC.

Donna Gaukler – The Department has a master plan to include all of the parks history as well as the story behind the park, conceptual master plan and narrative. Any decisions made in the park are considered with the Master Park Plan for guidance.

Action Items:

[CLAC appointments](#) (Dale Harris and Chris Ryan)

Paul Parson reappplied and was re-appointed by the Park Board. Colleen Matt did not reapply and this is an applicant for the vacant position.

Discussion: Harris would like the process to include the subcommittee's review applications and make a recommendation to the Park Board. The Park Board recommended having the position re-advertised and then having the subcommittee review the applications and make the recommendation at the next meeting. The Clerk's office will be contacted to open the application process.

Discussion or Updates items:

Fort Missoula Regional Park – AGO and National Public Lands Day – (John O'Connor)

Report from O'Connor – The NPLC and AGO project included the incorporation of the Missoula Conservation Corp and the CCC Legacy Alumni. The one day event brought out 150-200 volunteers with much of the work done prior to the event by Parks staff prepping the trail and picnic table project. The event included great speakers, who support the development of the Fort and ended with a Bar-B-Que.

Montana/Idaho Recreation Parks Association Conference [Update](#) – (Donna Gaukler)

The Montana and Idaho conference planning started last year with Jason Pignanelli, Outdoor Recreation Specialist at the lead facilitator. The conference was held September 25-29 and had around 200 in attendance including staff and vendors. Several parks staff hosted sessions and there was good feedback from other agencies. John O'Connor and Dale Harris received citations of merit, and Eric Seagrave was named MRPA professional of the year.

Duncan Field/PEAS Farm (John O'Connor)

Donna Gaukler provided background information for the item. The land is owned by the School District and the PEAS farm had a ten year lease which has not been renewed at this time. The Mayor talked with school administrator on either selling the land or extend 40-50 year lease. In the past the School District has opposed a lease longer than five years. The Mayor was able to provide the school district with information indicating the value of the property is not as much as originally estimated. The school district may be open to a sale of the land to provide agricultural opportunities. There is high demand for garden lots in

Missoula and the Parks Department will work with Garden City Harvest on the purchase of the PEASE Farm and River Road Farm. The Department will lease the land and keep some of the acreage for soccer field. The Department will be incorporating fees to reserve fields for practices time. This will help mitigate the loss of revenue when a playing field is not available due to renovation. In the past neighborhood parks were not available for reservation. This new fee and policy will be reviewed by the Park Board in December.

John O'Connor – I would agree as there has always been an unwritten, unpaid claim to Toole Park for Ultimate Frisbee. We should treat every field the same way, and it would be good to formalize the Duncan field policy and process.

Staff Report - Shirley Kinsey Recreation Manager provided a summary of the summer season for 2012 for aquatics and recreation programs. This year:

- Swim lesson – over 2000 kids to swim with a new framework for lessons using the Aquatics Academy which streamlines the learning process and gives student success through focused instruction. It takes a swimmer from parent tot lessons to swim team or recreational swimming. The new program will help differentiate Parks program from others providing swim lessons.
- Some challenges or opportunities for aquatics include ongoing maintenance, transportation, research into energy savings projects, food vending, and a growing interest in facilities
- New programs for Sports & Wellness this year include: skate clinics, gymnastics, Jr. Playmakers basketball, as well as increased participating in tennis and youth camps.
- The Department has a contract with City Life for gym programs and received funding for Let's move Russell School after school program
- Outdoor recreation this year included repair and update of ropes course, coordinated logistics for MRPA and new full day outdoor summer camps, and expanded afterschool program
- The 2012 recreation season was very successful.

Director's report – Staff met with a donor for the All Abilities Playground with an expected contribution of \$150,000 in exchange for the naming rights of the playground.

The meeting adjourned @ 1:55 pm.