

**Park Board Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2018**

**Park Board Members Present:** Ron Brunk, Susan Schnee, Terri Dunn, Jim DeHerrera, Ray Boksich, Eric Matson and Frank Sweeney

**Park Board Members Absent:**

**Guest:** WAG Park Board

**City Staff Present:** Maria Butts, Mary Blubaugh

**A.** Call to Order: 7:00 pm

**B.** Approval of the June 12, 2018 Agenda- President Brunk recommends a change to move the WAG item from New Business to Presentations. Member DeHerrera moved to approve the change to the agenda. Member Matson seconded. A vote was taken with all ayes.

**C.** Approval of the May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes – Member Sweeney moved to approve the minutes as presented. Vice President DeHerrera seconded. A vote was taken with all ayes.

**D.** Public Comments –

**E.** Committee Reports

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee – Vice President DeHerrera reported the last committee meeting mostly dealt with old business. There was a lot of support for the Open Streets event. The wayfinding signs are on hold. Craig Workman wanted the committee's input on the Trailview subdivision's dedicated bike/pedestrian path. Director Butts said after the committee discusses this matter, it should then go to the Park Board for review of their recommendations.

b. Tree Advisory Committee – Member Dunn said the committee did not meet.

c. WSFF Board – President Brunk reported the ice it out, so repairs can be made. The ice should be back in 6 – 7 days.

d. WAG Board – Member Boksich withholds until the WAG presentation. Ray said the dog park looks so nice. Staff is doing a good job.

**F.** Presentations – WAG Board requests to redesign front entrance to Hugh Rogers WAG Park – Jim Lockwood, President of the WAG Park Board, gave the history of the improvements/work performed at the Hugh Rogers Dog Park since its inception in 2009.

In the Park Board packet there was the Scope of Work for the new front entrance project as well as a site plan. Mr. Lockwood said they also added a 10 ft. gate north of the northern bullpen to facilitate getting equipment to the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department agreed to provide a water source with a valve to enable the pads to be washed down and for the newly planted trees to be watered. Member Sweeney asked what the purpose of the bullpen is. Jim Lockwood explained the bullpens are needed to bring dogs into the park. Bullpens ease up the congestion of the dogs congregating.

Member Dunn asked what kind of trees are being planted. Jim Lockwood said the WAG Board would like evergreens. They haven't decided yet. Director Butts said Jen Sybrant suggested Birch or Western White Pine. Vice President DeHerrera was curious as to why Jen suggested these trees. Those trees are prone to disease. He thought a Ponderosa would work well. Jim asked Director Butts to discuss this with Jen.

Director Butts told the Park Board there are a few recommendations to this project. One is that no work will begin until all monies are raised. Also, the additional rules sign regarding vicious dogs in the park needs to be reviewed by the Park Board.

Member Boksich made a motion to approve the Hugh Rogers Dog Park Front Entrance Project.

Member Sweeney seconded. A vote was taken with all ayes.

#### **G. Public Hearings - None**

**H. Old Business – Canoe Park renaming and development –** President Brunk had looked at the other piece of property farther down. He doesn't see very good public access to the river. As well, there isn't enough room to turn around and park.

Director Butts said there is river access behind The Springs. We do have a right-of-way, but she isn't sure of the topography. President Brunk said it's pretty steep.

Regarding the option of selling the property, Member Boksich doesn't want to sell it at this time. He would prefer to sit on it especially as we don't maintain it. Ray asked if we could get volunteers like Mr. Fitzgerald and others in the paddling community to adopt the park. Director Butts said Mike Fitzgerald has adopted Riverside Park. Carla Belski runs the Adopt-A-Park program. Volunteers meet with Carla and come up with a list of things to do in the park that are things the City is capable of doing. They make a plan of what they want to do, and we provide the tools and some of the resources to accomplish the goals.

Vice President DeHerrera is concerned with putting any monies into that property at this time. Member Dunn, Member Schnee and Member Sweeney agree.

The Park Board has a drawing of the cleanup/improvements suggested by Mike Fitzgerald.

President Brunk would like the Parks and Recreation Department to take his drawings and assign a dollar amount to it. Member Dunn said this drawing only addresses the flat part of this property.

Director Butts said we do not have the staff to do this project as drawn. It would be a full summer project. Maria said we should prioritize all capital improvement plans. This may be low on the list. It could be 5 years down the line.

Member Sweeney said given what we know about our budget, is this a park we could even maintain if citizens raised monies to do the improvements. Vice President DeHerrera said this is beyond hand work, it requires equipment. Member Matson said it is good to have a dollar amount. Member Dunn did not realize the extent of the commitment this would take until the Park Board visited the site.

Director Butts said the numbers would change significantly depending on where we do the improvements. If we just look at the upper part the cost would be less than if we are wanting to improve the actual river access.

President Brunk said it would be good to have this in our CIP discussion. Member Boksich said he went by the park and it looks like the Birch tree might have fallen. Director Butts said she will have Jen Sybrant take a look at that tree.

There were 2 parts of this request. One is renaming the park, and this should also be addressed.

Member Dunn made a motion to put Canoe Park development on hold and add it to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Member Sweeney seconded. A vote was taken with all ayes.

There was discussion on renaming Canoe Park. Mr. Fitzgerald did amend his first request and suggested changing the name to Paddle Park.

Member Sweeney made a motion to not change the name of the park at this time since there is no real access to the river from the park.

Member Matson seconded. A vote was taken with all ayes.

**I.** New Business –

**J.** Other Items - None

## K. Items from Parks and Recreation Department

a. Administrative Report – Director Butts told the Park Board members of the Adult Soccer Community came to City Council requesting more monies be allocated to Grouse Mtn soccer fields, the Armory softball fields, as well as Smith Fields. Regarding the Grouse Mountain Soccer Fields, there is a lease agreement with the golf course to maintain the fields. Director Butts inspected the fields today and they are in better shape than she expected. There are some patches that do need to be addressed. Terry Nelson, from the golf course, said it would cost \$50,000 for top dressing the first year. It would then cost \$20,000 every other year to maintain the fields to the level this group is requesting. Director Butts conveyed this to Andy Bestwick. She has not heard back from Mr. Bestwick. A Flathead Rapids contact said Mr. Bestwick is not representing them or Project Whitefish Kids. This group consists of citizens who play soccer.

Member Dunn said when we made the commitment to aerate the fields, that greatly helped. This should be placed on the CIP. They are significantly better than they used to be.

President Brunk said the fields are pretty smooth. Ron met with 2 soccer players and they didn't have any complaints. They did say it would cost a lot to make them really good fields because of the soil.

Director Butts said the July Park Board meeting would be a great time to present the CIP. She also told the Park Board as an FYI, Project Whitefish Kids is requesting \$50,000 from Resort Taxes for their playground. Their lease says we can't allocate funds, so it would require their lease to be amended.

Director Butts said she was told by the Flathead Area Mountain Biking Association that work has started on the pump track. Shaping and the hand work will be done by the end of June. They will then reassess what is needed for landscaping. They will keep Maria updated.

Member Sweeney asked Maria about an incident at City Beach. Director Butts said a child, under the age of 1, was found face down in the water. The child was pulled out of the water by a bystander. Our Beach Ranger called 911 and continued getting water out. By the time the medics came the baby had recovered. Director Butts was later told the baby was doing fine.

Member Sweeney asked if there are any ordinances in place for anyone not supervising a child in the water. Director Butts said there are rules stating children under 12 must be supervised.

b. Recreation Coordinator – Staff training for Summer Camp has begun. Next week staff will be trained in First Aid and CPR. Member Dunn offered services to provide CPR/First Aid training.

c. Parks Maintenance – Bakke Nature Reserve benches, trash can, and bike rack have been installed. The City Beach restroom remodel is finished. Whitefish Tree Service was contracted to perform hazard tree work on trees over 40'. Water fountains were installed at Grouse and City Beach.

d. Community Services Coordinator Report – The Whitefish Open Streets event was held with 22 organizations and businesses participating. Volunteer to Ski participants will start work the second week of June.

**L. Correspondence – None**

**M. Items from Park Board:**

Eric Matson – There should be some warning signs at the bottom of the Haskill Basin Trail. There could be some problems.

Ray Boksich – Asked if the Depot Park fence is still scheduled to come down on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Director Butts said yes. Ray said there is a big brown patch of grass in the new area of the park, is that ok? Maria said she will be walking Depot Park with Bruce Boody to check if everything is growing well.

Jim DeHerrera – None

Frank Sweeney – go Depot Park!

Terry Dunn – None

Susan – None

Ron Brunk – None

**N. Adjourn:** Member Boksich made a motion to adjourn. Member Sweeney seconded. The Park Board meeting was adjourned @ 8:21 pm