

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSION
October 19, 2005

ATTENDANCE: **Board of Park Commissioners Present:** Vice Chairperson Patrick Finnegan, Chairperson Debbie Deagen, Robert Logar, and Jack Clarkson. **Absent:** Carol Collins, Donna Gottsch, and Rick Fink. **Staff Present:** Christina Thompson and Michael Harris.

ITEM 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**

Debbie Deagen called the Board of Park Commission meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Jack Clarkson moved to approve the September 21, 2005 minutes. Robert Logar seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT-None.**

ITEM 3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Long Term Planning Committee (Debbie)

- a) **Discussion on Strategic Plan:** The board reviewed the Strategic Plan and made comments on changes and additions suggested by Ms. Deagen, including public outreach to help promote the planning and development of parks and trails.

Mr. Finnegan commented on determining a distinction between a Transportation plan and a Trails plan and whether or not it should be combined into one plan. Ms. Deagen noted that some of the trails are along collectors or boulevard trails and different standard of trails that could be implemented through transportation plans, and funded through capital projects budgeting and new subdivisions coming in. Mr. Logar agreed there needs to be a distinction between a sidewalk plan and a trails plan so that developers know what to deal with.

Mike Harris commented on the Trails plan including linkages with trails in subdivisions. The level of service will determine the type and location of these trails throughout the county. Mr. Harris noted that to determine level of service, there needs to be a determination of service areas. For example, the Monforton Community Plan, will determine where population centers will be so that it would be easy to predict the type of pedestrian trails and they where they will go and have planning of infrastructure (water and sewer) at the same time so that growth is laid out as much as possible.

Mr. Finnegan asked about Objective 1.1, and whether there were additional attributes added to the classification system. Mr. Harris answered, no, and that the county park inventory is completed and is just building the graphics file and database. Mr. Harris added, that determining whether these parks are private or public park will take additional time and research by going through the plat books individually, but first we should determine our highest priority parks to look at for a method of development. Mr. Finnegan added that the one that are highest priority are in our corridors for trails, and that may be a criteria to determine high priority parks.

Mr. Logar asked whether private trails should be included in the inventory. Mr. Harris answered that all parkland had to be included to determine whether they are private or not, and if they are found to be private and maintained by homeowners association, or not useful, we could take them off the inventory. Mr. Finnegan stated that both private and public parks should remain in the inventory so that if trails are proposed and need to be accessed through private parks, the Board of Park Commissioners can negotiate with the homeowners association.

Mr. Clarkson stated that classification system for existing parkland, what would be a Class "A" park if we have only one regional park in the county? Who would develop it? Mr. Harris mentioned that the Board of Park Commissioners would determine the classification and suggested that these be similar to how the Trails Plan classifies Class I, II & III, trails. Parks

could be rated according to size, projected use, geographic, recreational opportunities, amenities, etc. Mr. Finnegan noted that it could be based on maintenance (high and low). Ms. Deagen noted that maintenance is part of our level of service standards that we want.

Mr. Logar asked if parkland set aside for subdivisions and owned and maintained by the homeowners association are open to the public? Mr. Harris answered; "the county used to dedicate the parks to the homeowners association as private parks so the county didn't have to maintain them. Then the county changed its standards and now parks are dedicated public parks, but its up to the homeowners association to operate and maintain it". "There were a few parks dedicated to the county and so they are not just public dedicated parks, they are county owned parks and it's the county's responsibility to maintain it".

Mr. Finnegan suggested adding the park inventory on the county website.

The board discussed the timeline for the goals and objectives and decided to adopt the Strategic Plan in December.

ITEM 4. ACTION ITEMS

o Maintenance and Development Committee (Rick)

a) **Adoption of a Resolution Appointing a Park Warden**-Mr. Harris stated that the law states that this board has the ability to appoint a warden to enforce the rules, but does not give the board the authority to adopt those ordinance that have the weight of a criminal offense. Mr. Harris suggested that the Board of Park Commissioners recommend to the County Commission to appoint himself and County Code Compliance Officer Amy Waring as the Gallatin County Park Warden. Mr. Finnegan moved to instruct staff to forward the memo dated October 17, 2005 to the County Commission for comment. Mr. Logar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b) **FOR Parks Feedback**-FOR Parks requested that the Board of Park Commissioners appoint a liaison to FOR Parks. Mr. Harris noted that the board will be working with many groups that will want involvement in county parks and suggested that FOR Parks have a liaison for the Board of Park Commissioners. The County Commissioners will be sending a letter to FOR Parks regarding the Board of Park Commissioners role in the Regional Park. FOR Parks is an advisory board that makes recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners that will be in charge of decisions related for future planning and development and the County Commissioners will handle all contractual and legal issues related to the original purchase of the Regional Park. The Board will ask FOR Parks to discuss the progress of the Regional Park at the next scheduled Board meeting.

ITEM 5. OTHER

o Review TPL Park Master Plan Contract (if time allows): Continued

ITEM 6. SET AGENDA, MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The next Board of Park Commissioners meeting is set for Wednesday, November 15, 2005 at 5:00pm in the Courthouse Community Room.

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Thompson
Exec. Asst.
Gallatin County Commission