

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSION
August 17, 2005

ATTENDANCE: **Board Members Present:** Robert Logar, Carol Collins, Patrick Finnegan, Rick Fink, Debbie Deagen, Jack Clarkson and Donna Gottsch. **Staff Present:** Christina Thompson and Michael Harris.

ITEM 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mike Harris called the Board of Park Commission meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Carol Collins asked to amend sentences in **Item 2**, in the minutes to include the following changes: The motion was made to approve *draft by-laws with changes* and note that *final* approval of the By-laws will be made at the last meeting. *Initial board terms* (instead of terms) were determined at the last meeting. The Board of County Commissioner's budget will be *presented for approval* in August by the County Commission.

Deb Deagen asked to amend a sentence in **Item 2**, in the minutes to include the following change: The board determined that agendas would be published in the newspaper when items of public interest will be *discussed* and approved by the board.

Patrick Finnegan moved to approve the minutes with changes. Mr. Logan seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

ITEM 3. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

ITEM 4. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

None

ITEM 5. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

ITEM 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Approval of By Laws:** Ms. Deagen asked to amend the by-laws in Section 1, changing the M.C.A. statutes to 76-16-2301 and Resolution No. 2004-130. Mr. Finnegan noted that 'Roberts', in Roberts's rules of order should be deleted in Section 4. Jack Clarkson moved to approve the By-laws with corrections. Ms. Collins seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Election of Officers:** Ms. Collins moved to elect Deb Deagen as chair for the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Clarkson closed the nominations. Mr. Finnegan seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Clarkson moved to declare Deb Deagen by acclamation. Mr. Finnegan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Finnegan volunteered to serve as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Fink volunteered to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Clarkson moved to close the nomination and declare Patrick Finnegan as the Vice Chairperson by acclamation. Donna Gottsch seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously. Donna Gottsch moved to close the nomination and declare Rick Fink as our Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Collins seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Thompson will continue to take minutes and serve as staff person for the Board.

- **Adopt Goals and Objectives:** (New goals and objectives were included in the DRAFT FY 2006 Strategic Plan distributed by Mr. Harris at the meeting.). Objective 3.2 was reworded to read: Create a weed management policy for county parklands. Ms. Collins moved that we approve the goals and objectives with the above change. Mr. Fink seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Work Plan (Strategic Plan):** This plan looks at prioritizing the goals including a timeline. A proposal was sent to Mr. Harris from Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to determine service needs and complete a Master Plan. A survey will be conducted by TPL to determine what the public wants as far as recreation, and will work with a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) model to locate parks based on our goals in order to better meet the needs of our citizens. According to current statistics and parcel data, we currently have 32,072 acres of parkland dedicated (through the subdivision process). That includes parkland, trails, and linear parks dedicated as open space. National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends 10 acres of parkland for 1,000 people. We already have enough for 300,000 people already dedicated, so more land may not be the issue, but rather the quality of land we have. The cost required for maintenance for county parks may be far more money than the taxpayer wants to fund. Ms. Deagen asked why private Open Space would be included as parkland, if it were not available for the public to use? Mr. Harris answered that some parkland is labeled as Open Space in the parcel data. The work to be done by the county staff person may be able to differentiate whether some parcels are public or private open space, but will not be able to differentiate for all the parcels.

A county G.I.S. technician will be conducting an inventory of county parkland scheduled for September 1st. The technician will conduct field surveys, update the parcel layers, and will describe location, attributes, and amenities, including ball fields, etc.

The level of service assessment that may be conducted by TPL, along with the data we collect, and current needs, will be put into a G.I.S. modeling system based on current data and future growth, that will determine where we should plot future parks in reference to future development. This system would allow developers to come to the Board of Park Commissioners first, prior to subdivision review; to help determine the need for land and/or facilities. From there, TPL would be able to take the survey further and test the public for what level of support they would have for a public funding initiative for park development/maintenance in 2008. Mr. Finnegan asked where the money is coming from to pay for the TPL proposal. Mr. Harris stated that Open Space Bond money could be used for planning for Parks. Mr. Harris would like to get the contract and scope of work from TPL by October 1st, or November 1st, 2005. The parkland inventory by county staff will be completed this September or October and then TPL could get started right away. Ms. Collins asked if TPL has other sources for funding to fund this project. Mr. Harris said they do but not for this program because TPL normally works with areas with large land mass and population and Bozeman has a lot of land mass and low population. Mr. Harris will send out another copy of the proposed TPL contract for the Board's review, prior to our September Board meeting.

Mr. Harris asked the board to bring recommendation and ideas on how to label parks for the county park inventory (see 1989 Recreation Plan for ideas). After this inventory is completed, there will be a GIS parcel layer accessible from the county website with park attributes, ownership, etc. We will also have an updatable database for identifying parcels that may be examined for parkland disposal.

ITEM 7. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Clarkson noted that the City of West Yellowstone has a City Parks department and a citizen run board that works on planning and creating objectives, etc. but has no administrative function over

maintenance of the parks. The city of West Yellowstone has a city park in each square block established in 1908 for plowing snow. Currently the citizen's board is looking at ways to use these parks. Mr. Harris suggested meeting with this citizen's board later on in the future. Mr. Logar noted that Manhattan does not have a recreation plan but rather a growth policy that addresses recreation needs. Mr. Finnegan noted that Three Forks has a standing committee and various staff that contributes to park maintenance, but no strategic plan in place. Ms. Collins noted that Big Sky is working on a plan for a community park, but no cohesive group working together. Ms. Gottsch noted that the City of Belgrade has a growth policy, and an active group working on some park projects in the City. Mr. Harris noted that part of the needs assessment would be to talk with the city administrators about cost and need for those communities.

ITEM 8. **SET AGENDA, MEETING TIME AND LOCATION**

Mr. Harris noted that construction has begun on the Regional Park site and suggested that the board have a tour at the beginning of September's meeting. The board will meet at the regional park on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at 5pm, or 4:45pm at the Courthouse if you would like to carpool to the Regional Park. After the tour, the Board will return to the Courthouse Community Room to finish its business.

ITEM 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Deagen adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

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