

DRAFT

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
June 21, 2006**

ATTENDANCE: Chairperson Debbie Deagen, Patrick Finnegan, Rick Fink, Carol Collins, Donna Gottsch, Jack Clarkson, and Bob Logar. Staff Present: Open Lands Coordinator Mike Harris, and Recording Secretary Christina Thompson

GUESTS: Dick McConnen, FORParks President' Ron Dingman, Superintendent of Parks for the City of Bozeman; and William Pond, Assistant Professor of Landscape Design.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debbie Deagen called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2006

Patrick Finnegan moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2006. Carol Collins asked to correct the minutes to reflect her comment that the resolution will expire *after* one year. Bob Logar seconded said motion with the change. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment submitted.

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE A) UPDATE ON REGIONAL PARK.

FOR Parks President Dick McConnen gave an overview on the proposed punch list for the regional park. Issues discussed included lack of topsoil on the amphitheater unsuitable for plant growth. The seating area on the amphitheater has been reduced by 20% by design and 3 feet higher and wider on top by design. Mr. McConnen stressed that the roads still need to be reclaimed as stated in the contract.

Mike Harris stressed there's still work that needs to be completed: (see PC' Development Regional Park Final Construction Punchlist handout). The amphitheater has to be completed to the standards outlined by Doug Chandler. The amphitheater, according to the contract, calls for 6-12 inches of topsoil smooth and gradable for seating.

Stewart Jennings (former mine reclamation specialist at MSU) and Potter Clinton need to come up with a standard and negotiate a happy medium.

William Pond, MSU Assistant Professor of Landscape Design, suggested contacting the Landscaping Contractors Association as a point of reference to determine some nationally acceptable definitions of topsoil and seedbed preparation.

Mr. Harris stated that the contractor would reasonably reclaim roads as stated in the contract. Mr. Harris referred to the Buy-Sell Construction agreement for the Regional park that includes the statement that, "the contractor shall have the right to remove gravel and soil from the construction sites for subprojects A, B, C, D and take possession thereof, as long as the Agreement is in effect."

Patrick Finnegan stated that he was flabbergasted that language was in the contract and the county should be compensated for taking gravel and soil off their land.

Mr. Harris will speak with the County Attorney for legal clarification of this statement.

Mr. McConnen concluded his update by suggesting that the Board contact Kent Watson in Missoula to assist in developing a master plan for the regional park because of his previous knowledge and work on the preliminary conceptual design.

Ms. Deagen stated that Bill Pond has offered his assistance in getting a master plan adopted.

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE B) UPDATE ON REGIONAL PARK ENGINEERING PLAN SOO'S.

Mr. Harris met with Keith Waring (TD&H) regarding the status of the Engineering plan. The problem is they would like an adopted master plan by July 1st. In the meantime; they will survey the whole park as is- 2ft contours. They need to know where to site infrastructure because of the development of Vaquero Parkway and Ferguson road. Mr. Harris added that there is a 6-inch gas main that the city does not want in their right of way. As a trade, we could have it on our park on Davis lane, but the only problem would be if we decided to run power over there and the problem would be running water over power.

Mr. Waring will provide a design that the park will be used ready for phasing- with grading, building envelope and irrigation system- that will not interrupt future construction.

Ms. Deagen asked what happens if we don't adopt the master plan by September 1st? Mr. Harris answered that it would just push back the process.

Mr. Pond stated that there are a few things missing 1) engineering base map 2) actual design objective and legal document to stand 3) specific site analysis issues i.e. soils, pasture land, invasive weeds, etc. There should be a schematic master plan by September 1st. The current master plan did not include a legal public hearing process and needs to be massaged and tweaked for site conditions-there may be modifications if needed.

Mr. Pond would like to help in the master plan process through a collaborative effort with MSU Departments: Engineering Department, Landscape and Ecology and Architecture department. Mr. Pond will have his proposal outline with program elements to the board in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Harris updated the board regarding trespassing in the Regional park. Mr. Harris stated that the trespassing situation has gone way down and there are no recent tracks in the mud. Mr. Harris will be putting up a no trespass sign near Davis Street and will include a large sign with "Gallatin County Regional Park" in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS- B) CONTINUATION ON DISCUSSION REGARDING COMPLAINTS FROM ANNETTE PARK AND ARROW LEAF HILLS.

Mr. Harris gave an update on complaints from Annette Park (paintball/leaving trash) and Arrow leaf Hills (Motorized/spreading weeds). Mr. Harris suggested a blanket closure to off-road motorized vehicles on county parks. Ms. Deagen suggested adding signage-restricting use to non-motorized vehicles and no littering on county owned parks. Ron Dingman, Superintendent of Parks for the City of Bozeman stated that it was advisable to add signage to all county parks

because it would be difficult to enforce. Ms. Deagen suggested adding signage to the problem parks initially.

Mr. Dingman stated that the concern about having a blanket policy on all parks might cause the problem to not go away. You would need to look at each activity and if it doesn't go away, you need to know where you want the activity to go.

Ms. Deagen suggested prior to taking action on problem parks, conduct a work session with those subdivisions for feedback and advertise the work sessions in the paper.

Jack Clarkson asked what are unintended consequence on motorized vehicles and if so are there any motorized activities deemed appropriate? Mr. Harris answered that most complaints come from pocket neighborhood parks.

Bob Logar suggested restricting use on all parks unless they are designated motorized use.

ACTION ITEMS- C) CONTINUATION ON DISCUSSION ON LEASE REQUIREMENTS ON COUNTY PARKLAND.

Mr. Harris discussed his draft lease requirements on parkland (handout). Mr. Harris noted that the lease amount is determined by taxes imposed and also work and improvements. Mr. Logar asked if the lease with the YMCA was based on taxes imposed? Mr. Harris said no, that the county violated it's own policy (is this a state law?, I thought that was what Mike said?) . Ms. Thompson will resend the Lease Requirements handout to discuss at July's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS- D) DISCUSSION REGARDING MCLEOD PARK.

Superintendent of Parks for the City of Bozeman, Ron Dingman asked the Board to review recommendations made by the Department of Recreation and Parks to take over maintenance and/or ownership of a county owned park named McLeod Park (located west of Sourdough Creek Subdivision and southeast of Sundance Springs Subdivision). The City of Bozeman has been maintaining it and are requesting an annual fee for weed control. Rick Fink asked how much is spent so far on maintenance? Mr. Dingman answered that approximately \$35.00-40.00 an acre is spent. Mr. Harris asked if the county could compensate with chemical? Mr. Dingman said possibly, but would also have to account for man-hours. Mr. Dingman noted that the City of Bozeman is currently paying for county land and the county residents need to foot the bill. Mr. Logar noted that if you hand over ownership to the City of Bozeman, they might take over and meet (?) the needs of city residents but not county residents. Mr. Harris noted that we would determine what the public needs through level of service areas and do it in cooperation with both the city and the county. Carol Collins asked what the process was to deed over property to another public entity. Mr. Harris noted that it needed to go through a legal process. Mr. Dingman mentioned that the City of Bozeman has adopted the master plan and the park has been classified as natural land-open space.

Mr. Pond recommended to the board that the classification and definitions of parks should be similar to the City of Bozeman to make them congruent.

Mr. Dingman noted that classifications were determined by PROST (Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails) and NRPA (National, Recreation, Parks Association). These classifications were developed for the City of Bozeman and were also based on national standards.

Mr. Finnegan moved to direct staff to open negotiations to the City of Bozeman in terms of turning over McLeod Park to the City of Bozeman for maintenance or for the purchase of the park. Mr. Fink seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS- A) APPROVAL OF CLAIMS (LEGAL ADS).

Ms. Thompson presented two invoices from the Bozeman Daily Chronicle for legal ads in the amount of \$82.30. Mr. Clarkson moved to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Finnegan seconded said motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER- UPDATE ON GUIDELINES FOR GALLATIN COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS.

Ms. Thompson spoke with County Planner Randy Johnson about adding our adopted guidelines into the subdivision regulations. Mr. Johnson is planning to amend the subdivision regulations with several updates in October. Ms. Thompson will work with Planning and on amending the subdivision regulations in Section 6G. Park Requirements, adding language, ‘ the subdivider must consult with the Gallatin County Board of Park Commissioners on a Parks and Trails Plan prior to Final Plat Approval’.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS- B) UPDATE ON CASH IN LIEU FUNDING.

Ms. Thompson gave an update on the total amount of cash in lieu of parks. Currently, there is \$49,816.87 according to the Finance Director. This does not include the most recent deposit of \$14,000.00. The board discussed the process for the disbursement of funds and noted that (MCA) Section 76-3-621 states that the governing body may use the dedicated money if the park, recreational area, open space, or conservation easement is within a reasonably close proximity to the proposed subdivision. The board requested legal clarification on what constitutes “close proximity”. Ms. Thompson passed out the guidelines for disbursement that the Planning department used to award funds for the development of subdivision parks. Ms. Thompson asked the board to review these guidelines along with the Parks, Recreation, Trails and or Environmental Education Project Rating Chart through the Open Space Program. The board agreed that \$50,000 be kept as the minimum balance in the park fund.

IV. SET AGENDA, MEETING TIME AND LOCATION.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 6th at 9:00am and the next Board of Park Commissioners meeting is set for Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 5:00pm in the Courthouse Community Room.

VII. ADJOURNED.

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