

Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

March 2, 2011
Park County, Montana

Attendance: Board members Larry Blakely, Phil Dawson, Martha Miller and Kristen Wester. Philip Fletcher, community development; Patricia Grabow, citizen; John Mueller, minutes clerk.

I. Call to Order: @3:03:06 p.m., Chair Kristen Wester called a meeting to order in the Community Room of the City/County Complex.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed minutes from the February 2, 2011, meeting. *Phil Dawson made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Blakely seconded that motion. Motion passed.*

III. Public Comment on Items not Scheduled for a Public Hearing: None

IV. Board Member Comments: None

V. Old Business

a. Project Updates: No report

b. Project Evaluation Checklist: The board reviewed an updated checklist provided by Phil Dawson. Wester said board members can use Patricia Grabow's proposed Bozeman Trail project in Dawson's most recent version of the checklist for the next meeting. Grabow said she will have more information on the proposed Bozeman Trail project before the next meeting and Fletcher will distribute that to board members. Fletcher said the board can rate and discuss the project via email before the next meeting. It was decided board members would send responses - positive, negative, neutral and not-applicable - to Dawson.

c. Proposed By-Laws Changes: Fletcher said he needs more time to redraft proposed changes for board review. *Kristen Wester made a motion to table changes to by-laws until next meeting. Phil Dawson seconded that motion. Motion passed*

VI. New Business

a. Bozeman Trail Presentation: Citizen Patricia Grabow provided a presentation on a proposed Bozeman Trail project and her work with the city trails committee to propose a bike path adjacent to the Bozeman Trail complete with interpretive signage to preserve visible ruts on the north side of Livingston and document 10,000 year of bison and human travel. Grabow said Livingston would be the only community in the state of Montana with a bike trail adjacent to the Bozeman Trail except for 10 miles on the National Historic Register near Virginia City.

Grabow said the plan is to mark a bike path through the southern tier of the trail along Front Street. She said the northern tier of the proposed trail near Meigs Road is not signed, but the Park County Historical Society is interested in completing signage. Grabow said the northern area would take a coordinated effort and a grant of \$70,000 to purchase easements across private property for nearly four miles.

Grabow said the sense of urgency with the project is the development of the north side of Livingston and proactive negotiation with landowners and gaining grant funds before subdivisions are approved may be positive in getting the project finished. She said the high school has been contacted to conduct a walkathon to raise funds and awareness, and she would like the parks board to start seeking grant monies and look into available land. Grabow said the city and Historical Society was awarded a \$37,000 grant and that portion of the trail is already in. She said eight need miles of bike path are needed across five different private properties and discussion has commenced with some of those private landowners.

Wester said obtaining written approval from landowners is the first effort in applying for a grant for the project. Community Development Director Philip Fletcher said the proposed project is within the purview and authority of the parks board and park funds can potentially be used for it. He said the project may also qualify for CTEP funds. Wester asked for a written update of easement and other projects costs from the historical society with proposed project phases.

b. 9th Street Island Mitigation: Fletcher said Kent Atwood of FEMA was interested in mitigation via a buyout of 9th Street Island residences. Fletcher said funds that were available under a CDBG program may now be combined with existing FEMA funding to possibly purchase a property on 9th Street Island while subsequently relocating an existing trailer court off the island. Fletcher said he provided the parks board information that he will pursue land for the relocation.

VII. Discussion of April Agenda: The board said it will have committee updates, finish review of the trails plan, discuss by-law revisions and discuss additional information from Grabow regarding the proposed Bozeman Trail project.

VIII. Public Comment: None

IX. Adjournment: @4:06:10 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Kristen Wester
Chair