

Parks and Recreation Board

December 2nd, 2015
Park County, Montana

Attendance: Board members Martha Miller, Carol Woodley, Cassie Burns, Cara Mcneely; Mike Inman, Planning; Henry Hansen, GIS, Jacqueline Isaly, Health Department

Call to Order: 3:00 p.m.; Community Room, County Complex East Room

Public Comment on items not scheduled for a public hearing: None

Review & Consideration of adding tobacco free language: Jacqueline Isaly, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, asked the Board for their support on a proposal to designate all parks and trails in Park County be designated tobacco free environments. Jacqueline said this would help with fire mitigation, decrease litter and promote a healthy and active community. The City of Livingston has already adopted this policy for the trails and parks in the city. This would not be an enforceable law and there would be no fines for violation. Jacqueline and the Board discussed signage and the preference of all the signage within the City and County to match. *Cassie Burns made a motion to recommend approval of placing tobacco free signage in County trails and parks to the Park County Commission. Carol Woodley seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.*

Public Hearing-Review & Consideration of Draft Active Transportation Plan: Mike Inman gave background history of how the Active Transportation Plan came to fruition. He also elaborated on what an Active Transportation Plan is, including an inventory of current public access areas and their existing conditions as well as future development and maintenance recommendations. Mike discussed the process of developing the Active Transportation Plan, elaborating on the focus of gathering public comment and the public's participation in creating the plan. He stated that there was a large amount of public comment surrounding the City of Livingston. He further stated that the Planning Department would pursue a collaboration with the City of Livingston's Parks and Trails Board in order to address some of the issues raised during public comment. Mike Inman summarized and read public comments for the Board, pointing out that common threads exist throughout the comments. The Board concluded that the topics identified in the comments are already addressed within the existing draft Active Transportation Plan and revisions to the draft based on the public comments where not required. *Carol Woodley made a motion to recommend approval for adopting the Active Transportation Plan to the Park County Commission. Martha Miller seconded the motion. Carol Woodley withdrew the original motion on the floor. After some board discussion to the possible inclusion of GIS requirements, Carol Woodley made a motion to recommend approval for adopting the Active Transportation Plan as is to the Park County Commission. Martha Miller seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion of Process to Update and Consolidate Parks & Trails Plans: The Board stated that parks are a community resource and there should be more direct community involvement in improving and restoring parks. The Board brought up the possibility of

doing something similar to a Rural Improvements District to help fund parks and trails improvements so a portion of the cost is deferred to the users of those specific facilities, rather than disbursed across the County's population as a whole. The Board also expressed interest in the potential value of creating public-private partnerships to support and maintain specific parks and trails projects by forming boards or "friends of" groups. Mike Inman informed the Board that during the Silver Gate Park assessment, although all the existing equipment needed to be removed, the Commission looked to the local community directly to ask what they wanted the park to be. He added that Green Acres Park was a similar situation where the Commission kept local community expectations as a primary driver in dealing with that park. Inman also stated that the Commission has asked the Attorney and Planning offices to look into the potential of creating Park Districts; and that the County is also investigating public-private partnerships for parks and trails maintenance.

Discussion of January Agenda: The Board wished to add requesting County recourses for the purpose of constructing a memorial stand. It was determined that if the bid for constructing the stand came back before the next meeting it would be added to the agenda.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 5:31 p.m.

Martha Miller
Chair