

Parks and Recreation Board

December 5, 2012
Park County, Montana

Attendance: Board members Cassie Burns, Cara McNeely, Robin Ogata and Carol Woodley; Mike Inman, planning; Parks Frady, CTA; John Mueller, minutes clerk

Call to Order: @3:04:25 p.m., Vice-Chair Robin Ogata called a meeting to order in the East Room of the City/County Complex.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed minutes from the November 7, 2012, meeting. *Cara McNeely moved to accept the minutes as presented. Carol Woodley seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Public Comment: None

Gardiner Gateway Project Update: Parks Frady, CTA Engineering, provided an update of the Gardiner Gateway Project complete with a proposed layout drawing as put together by the National Park Service based on public comment sessions. The rendition included proposed changes to Arch Park. Frady said the next public meeting for the project will be December 13 at the Gardiner Community Center. He said the first two public meetings were well-attended, with 90 and 80+ participants present.

Survey Discussion/Implementation: Mike Inman, planning, said four people took the proposed county parks and recreation survey as a test effort, and he thinks the survey will work well provided a good response rate is achieved throughout the county.

There was discussion about how to conduct the survey, such as hosting it at various chambers of commerce, using email lists, social media, the county website, and getting paper copies into communities. Paper copies would require answers to be manually inputted into the SurveyMonkey program. Cassie Burns said she has a source of free labor to assist with paper copies. There was discussion about possibly putting notices in local water bills or newsletters to notify people of the survey.

Inman said he would like to have the survey open long enough to receive 1,500 responses, but that number may not be attainable. He said he can advertise the survey through the county website and possibly try to conduct a get-out-the-vote campaign through community newsletters.

The board said it will wait until 2013 before it puts out the survey in communities. Inman said he could have the survey on the county website before Christmas and could get it to different agencies and groups the board works with to ask them to send it to a list of clients they serve.

FEMA Buy-Out Update: Inman said a site visit was held at the 32-acre property in question for possible acquisition on 9th Street Island the previous Friday. He said some

people he thought would show up did not, such as the city of Livingston, and the overall process has been delicate. He said an adjoining landowner actively participated in the meeting, which was not necessarily intended to be a public meeting. He said there was talk about adjoining landowner concerns with the property being purchased. He said he feels public officials no longer feel as good about the possible acquisition as they may had been initially. Inman said he could not really discuss what was needed to discuss at the meeting because of the public members present, and what was discussed probably was not appropriate for that meeting. He said the county's interest in the property should be to acquire the property to mitigate potential flood damage, but it becomes problematic when future possible uses of the property are considered. Inman said the two issues are two completely different topics of discussion, and the discussion of future use should not be on the table at the current time – only acquisition should be.

Inman said the next step, in his opinion, is to ask Sky Federal to show the appraisal, schedule a public meeting, and ask the Commission if it will purchase the island property and all flood mitigation issues associated with it. He said the bank's appraisal of the property is as a recreational property only, because the former house no longer is present, and county floodplain administrators determined no structure could be built on the property because it is in the floodway.

January Meeting Agenda: The board said it will meet on January 2, unless not enough business warrants a meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: @4:24:52 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Martha Miller
Chair