

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 14, 2024**

ACTION ITEMS

All:

- Get Updated (and additional) letters of Support for the T-Mobile Grant application
- Complete any “unfinished business” you can at McStravick Park.

Tressa Blair

- Speak with Joni Short about her intended use of her property.

Jen Frazer

- Speak with Golf Board about formalizing cross country skiing on the Golf Course.
- Update T-Mobile Grant, as described below.

Carol Berg

- Signs installed/secured at Bump Track/ maintenance needs at Bump track?
- Duck Race?

Kelly Huffield

- Prepare Press Release
- Explore the costs to repair/replace the sign at Joanna’s Park.
- *Adopt a Spot*: Finish getting agreements signed for next year. Get binder & agreements to City, place recognition signs.
- Work with Stacy Eaton-Menard on the basketball tourney?

Pattie Berg

- Speak with School about ground covering plans
- Follow up with Mayor re: bids for ground covering work.
- Follow up with City of Missoula regarding sanitation procedures at Northside Park.

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4: 38 p.m.

Members present: Tressa Blair (via zoom) Carol Berg Jordan Kibbee

Proxies: Tressa Blair had Kelly Huffield’s proxy

Others Present: Michelle Mueller, Morgan Vaisvilas, and Anna Randal (or something near that) of the dog area group); Pattie Berg (City Council Liaison)

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2024 Meeting

On a motion made by Carol Berg and seconded by Jordan Kibbe, the Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Committee meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Chair’s Report on Council Presentation

Chair Blair reported that she had made a presentation to the City Council on March 4, 2024. Blair’s presentation included a discussion regarding the Committee’s resubmission of the T-Mobile grant, recent accomplishments, and Committee goals.

Chair Blair reported that she stressed to the Council the importance of getting ground covering placed at Bair Park or it was possible the Committee would recommend closure of that popular park. Chair Blair also told the Council that addressing Bair and Springs Park, and providing proper access issues at McStravick Park, are the Committee’s top priorities.

Chair Blair reported the following accomplishments:

- Developing a strategic financial plan to get Springs and Bair Park done by the end of the 2024,

- Identifying a possible source for new equipment at Springs Park,
- Identifying and adopting CIP parks priorities,
- Completing the review of the Draft Parks ordinance, and completing the CORR report.

Chair Blair asked the Council to formally adopt the CORR report and explained that if the City doesn't get a CDBG grant, the CORR process could be used to do a Recreation Master Plan for the entire City.

Chair Blair encouraged the Council to take a walk at Spike's Park now that the survey has been completed.

Blair noted that, at the meeting, council member Ron Frisbie suggested asking Two Basset Brewery to hold a 'pales for trails' fundraiser for parks projects.

Update on Draft of Committee Handbook

Chair Blair noted that a draft committee handbook has been placed on the shared drive. She asked Committee members to review the draft, which will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Liaison Berg noted that the earlier draft of the Handbook included an approval process for grants. The goal was to increase communication within the City and among outside parties so everyone know who is applying for funds affecting or on City property. This process has been removed from the current Handbook draft, and the Committee will review take this up at a later date.

Liaison Report

In advance of the meeting, Liaison Berg had provided copies of numerous emails regarding the CDBG grant and House Bill 355 funds. The committee reviewed the emails and had no further questions.

Berg reported that she was communicating with a ground covering installer that Jen Frazer had referred her to. This is related to getting bids for the ground covering at both Bair and Springs parks.

Grants Update (Pattie Berg in Jen Frazer's absence)

- Berg had a conversation with Jen Frazer before Frazer went on vacation. They had budget figures and letters of support for the T-Mobile Grant. Frazer did not need any assistance at the time, but was encouraged to contact Committee members if she needs help getting the grant finished. The next deadline is March 31, 2024.
- According to Kelly Huffield, no decision has been made yet regarding the recipient of 2024 Race for this Place funds. Huffield promised to get a firm answer by March 24, 2024.
- The CDBG grant was denied. Jen Frazer, Liaison Berg, Craig Erickson and the Mayor attended a debrief and Erickson updated the grant based on this debrief. The Grant was resubmitted on March 11, 2024. A copy is in the Grants folder on the shared drive.

Dog Park Users Presentation

Michelle Mueller and Morgan Vaisvilas proposed a dog area in the west-most baseball diamond. See attached flyer and fencing material list

The group said the goals include provide a safe place for dogs to play and people (and their owners) to socialize. According to the presenters, this would not be a "dog park"; rather it would just be an off leash dog area. Dogs would have to be licensed and vaccinated, and no children would be allowed in the enclosure. Plans include fencing the area, installing a station with doggy bags, and a garbage can for used bags. They are modeling the project after Missoula's the Northside Park, which they said is a multi-use park which includes a baseball field and off leash area for dogs.

They are proposing to install 110 feet of fencing with a wide gate, at a cost of \$4,673. They have verbal commitments for some donations and have received in excess of 100 signatures on a petition supporting the idea from City residents, County residents, and visitors to the city. Liaison Berg asked for a copy of this petition.

When asked the difference between a dog park and a dog area, they said a dog area does not have any equipment, and creates less liability than a dog park.

The group is in the process of identifying volunteers to maintain the dog area, with a plan for cleaning to be done at least once a week and users being encouraged to scoop poop whether or not it belongs to their dog.

The group was told that, under the draft ordinance, the proposed use would require a user agreement and insurance. That would likely mean needing to form a nonprofit organization.

Committee members concerns regarding the proposal included:

Liability:

- What is the liability of a dog 'area', including but not limited to dog bites, kids versus dogs; dogs versus other dogs

Organizational Issues:

- It's hard keeping active volunteers. Both Mueller and Vaisvilas are looking to relocate. What happens when they're no longer here?
- In the past, White Sulphur has seen fundraisers for swimming pools and skateboard parks; the projects weren't developed, and no one seems to know where the money went. The Skateboard group that Angelia McDanel is forming has been working to form a non-profit with financial accountability and this group would need to do the same thing.

Maintenance Issues:

- Softball parents will not like it if their kids slides into first through a poop pile.
- The City does not have the staff to maintain this properly
- Does the City of Missoula somehow sanitize the turf before games?
- This is a Babe Ruth baseball diamond: the mound and infield must meet Babe Ruth standards.
- Who removes the garbage can that is full of used bags? Republic Services would probably charge for this.

Enforcement:

- Who will police the park and correct misbehavior?
- Who will make sure every dog is vaccinated and licensed and make sure children don't go in the park, etc.,

Multi Use Issues:

- The baseball group is just getting going again. That diamond was used last summer, and will likely see more use in the future.
- When a game is scheduled, once a week cleaning would insufficient and the park would need to be closed to dogs for at least a day or two prior to each game.

Other Issues:

- The Committee is interested in using its resources to address the local resident's needs, not to cater to visitors
- Every 'special' project needs to have a solid maintenance plan and ongoing funding.
- The City has problems with people following leash laws. This may exacerbate the problem.
- A dog park is not included in the CORR Report or in Committee's work plan

The group said it would follow up on the Committee's concerns. The Committee suggested that the group try to find a more appropriate location. It was noted that the Rodeo Club has some property in and outside their perimeter which is not dirt, is infrequently used, and may be a better option than using a landscaped baseball diamond. It was also noted that, during Rodeos, there are a lot of dogs in the Rodeo grounds. It was suggested that the Rodeo Club may be open to donating or renting a piece of their property for a dog park. Mueller and Vaisvilas will contact the Rodeo Club and report back to the Committee. The east side of Bair Park was also mentioned, as it is not turfed, but the idea garnered mixed reviews.

Liaison Berg asked for a copy of the petition, and will follow up with the City of Missoula regarding the sanitation procedures at Northside Park. The Committee deferred further action until it hears back from the group.

Open Mic for Committee Members

Deferred due to time constraints.

Public Comment (None)

Set Next Meeting Date/Time/Location/Adjourn
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The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m., at City Hall.

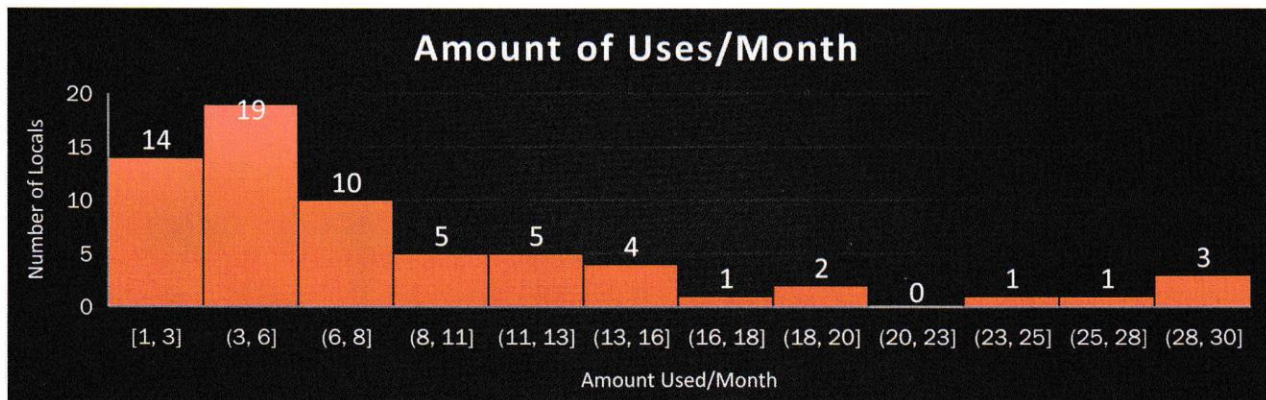
The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A SAFE FENCED AREA FOR DOGS

A MULTI-USE AREA IN WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA

Petition Overview

- A total of 119 signatures would like to see a multi-purpose area
- 101 Locals Signed
- 18 Visitors Signed
- 65 people would use monthly (54.6%)
- Table shows the amount of uses per month
- 71 Locals would donate (61.7%)
- 9 Visitors would donate (50%)
 - 1 Maybe



- Important for Owners and Dogs socialization and safety
- Location would be west most field at Springs Park and Ball Field
 - Fenced off completely
 - Will be able to reserve field for other uses
- Lots of opportunities for growth in WSS
 - Continuous improvement of parks
- Visitors will have a place for dogs to run off energy
- Petition proves there is a need for a safe fenced area for dogs
- Willing to volunteer our time to manage upkeep
- Funding
 - Donations (donation box)
 - Visitors
 - Locals
 - Businesses
 - Grants
 - Fundraising
- Expenses
 - Dog waste bags
 - Maintenance
 - Volunteers will be available
 - Signage
 - Dog waste bag dispenser
 - Fence 4ft high with widened gate for maintenance equipment

Material List

Based on what you entered, you need the following...

Total footage = 330 feet (plus gates, if any) with posts spaced a maximum of 10.00' apart.

Fabric

- 7 - 4' high x 9ga. chain link fabric (2x9x48GAW), KK, 50' roll \$1,743.00

Framework

- 16 - 1-5/8" x 21" swedge HF20 (.085 wall) \$1,076.32
- 30 - 1 5/8" x 6' galv. HF20 cut post \$576.60
- 6 - 2 1/2" x 6'6" galv. HF20 cut post \$217.68

Post Fittings

- 30 - eye top loop cap 1-5/8" x 1-5/8" - pressed steel (H-0810) \$88.80
- 6 - Post Cap 2-1/2" Aluminum Dome (H-0058) \$18.78
- 6 - 2-1/2" Galvanized Beveled Brace Band - Round (H-0934) \$9.06
- 6 - rail end cup 1-5/8" brace combo pressed steel (H-0822) \$12.30
- 6 - 3/16" x 5/8" wide x 48" long tension bar \$41.94
- 18 - tension band 2-1/2" beveled 12ga. x 7/8" (H-0914) \$34.02
- 24 - carriage bolt/hex. nut 5/16" x 1-1/4" (H-0002) \$5.76

Wire & Ties

- 3 - tie wire 1-5/8" aluminum pig-tail 9 ga. (6") - Bag of 100 \$31.02

Gates

- 1 - 4'H x 10'W Commercial Double Gate, All 1-5/8" Frame, HF20 Galv. \$677.11

Gate Fittings

- 4 - Butt Hinge (2-1/2" post, 1-5/8" or 2" gate frame) - malleable (H-0551) \$100.76
- 1 - Drop Rod Latch For Double Chain Link Gates (Complete Set - 1-5/8") \$39.87

Your total is \$4,673.02

Hoover Fence Estimating Calculators: Hoover Fence Company provides fence estimating software online as a free service to our customers and fence contractors. Calculators are believed to estimate fence materials correctly, however are updated frequently, and errors may exist. Hoover Fence Company accepts no responsibility for their accuracy. Please check all calculations manually, or with one of our sales representatives prior to placing your order for accuracy.