

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting of the Big Sky Park District Board of Directors

Thursday June 15, 2017

Water & Sewer District #363 Meeting Room

11:00 AM

Present: Mary Wheeler, Steve Johnson, Ciara Wolfe absent: Jon Olsen

Members of the Public: none

1. **Call to Order:** Mary Wheeler called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.
2. **Approval of March 16, 2017 Minutes:** Steve Johnson moved to approve the minutes; Mary Wheeler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Old Business:**
 - a) Status Report from BSCO
 - i.) Tunnel/Trail Project: Ciara Wolfe updated the board that the project is on hold until we understand if we received the Montana Transportation Alternatives Program grant. Also the BSRAD allocated the matching amount of \$142,765 contingent on receiving the MTAP grant.
 - ii.) Ciara Wolfe updated the Board that BSRAD cut Parks and Trails Maintenance funding by almost 40%, and made the recommendation that BSCO look into a property tax to fund the maintenance and operations. Ciara shared that in the recent survey conducted through the Master Parks Planning indicated a low level of community support in funding O & M through a property tax, so she would be reaching out to all BSRAD board members to learn where they are getting this information and direction from their constituents. Mary Wheeler confirmed that this was not the intent of the Parks District and stated that in forming the District they had told voters it would be a non-taxing District. Steve Johnson suggested it is our due diligence to investigate the potential of a property tax in response to BSRAD's request.
 - iii.) Parks Master Plan: Steve updated that the plan has a draft that will be shared with the public for input the next 30 days and then the draft will be finalized. Ciara stated that both the BSCO Board and District Board would have to approve the draft prior to asking for both Gallatin and Madison County to adopt the plan.

Ciara also shared that the Parks District role will be clarified within the plan and some action steps that the BSCO board and staff and Parks District Board will want to work on together to accomplish.

iv.) Areas of Priority from BSCO Board. Ciara Wolfe updated that the BSCO Board funded the Master Trails Plan in full with their own fundraised dollars. However they would like participation from the District on the Steering Committee for the plan. They would also like to have the Parks District work to help carry out the work of the action plan identified in the Master Parks Plan that is about to be finalized. Last Ciara recommended an MOU that outlines the roles of the two entities BSCO and the Big Sky Trails, Recreation and Parks District to clarify any confusion from outside entities

4. **New Business**

a) Beehive Basin Trailhead: Ciara Wolfe shared that BSCO has gone under contract to purchase the 7.5 acre parcel that the Beehive Basin trailhead sits on, with a closing date of 10/31/2017. BSCO will launch a fundraising campaign to purchase the parcel in July and plans to include costs to design a trailhead expansion and addition of park amenities to turn the parcel into an open-space park.

b) Steve recommended that the Parks District also get involved with the potential of a recreation center since that came across as the #2 priority for our community behind trail expansions.

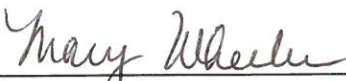
c) Mary Wheeler shared the Moonlight ODP paperwork she received and Mary Wheeler and Steve Johnson agreed to attend the public meetings to request trail connectivity within their proposed plan.

d)

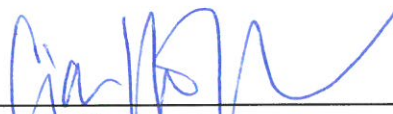
5. **Announcements**

- Date of next meeting: September 21st, 9:00 am

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM



Mary Wheeler, Chair



Ciara Wolfe, Secretary