

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

Monday July 31, 2017

Water & Sewer District #363 Meeting Room

2:30 PM

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

Members of the Public: Jolene Rieck (Peaks to Plains Consultant)

1. **Call to Order:** Mary Wheeler called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM.

2. **Master Parks Plan Recommendation for Adoption**

Mary Wheeler shared that she had attended the July BSCO Board meeting and the board reviewed the plan and supported it as long as the Parks District was in favor of making the recommendation of adoption to the County. Mary's concerns were that the plan would be a final document that held the Parks District responsible to carrying out all recommendations. She asked that the plan be a working document that annually was reviewed with work priorities and responsibilities outlined.

Jolene Rieck, the hired consultant from Peaks to Plains, explained that his plan is truly a planning document, we are not responsible for accomplishing anything within the plan just as a resource to help us develop our annual work plan that should be submitted to both Counties. She recommended we do not reference the plan as a working document, as it is final after approval from both County Commissions. However the final means it is just a plan document, not our work plan, that is truly the working document each year.

Jolene also explained the different roles and that BSCO can support the plan, however the Parks District is the arm of the County that has the authority to ask both counties to adopt the plan. BSCO endorsement is as a member of the public and nothing more. Ciara shared that she felt it would be appropriate for BSCO and Parks District to have a committee that works together each year to develop the working document since BSCO manages the parks and trails. All board members agreed that they see this a partnership and would want to work with BSCO to carry any of this plan out.

Jolene then shared the process of adoption in presenting to the planning boards and then going through a public hearing and finally presenting to the County Commissioners for approval. Each County has a different process, with Madison County being much more straight forward. Jolene recommended that after adoption a first priority for the Parks District would be to meet with Jim Doar, Gallatin County

Administrator and to outline and formalize who the Parks District reports to within Gallatin County, as there is lots of county staff confusion in this area.

Jolene then suggested that the areas the Parks District focuses on within their first work plan are; clarifying their role and chain of command within each County, setting up a granting program for any cash-in-lieu funds, working with the local government center out of MSU to develop a process for recommendations for subdivision approval and developing an annual work plan.

Ciara Wolfe made a motion to recommend to both Madison and Gallatin County to adopt the Big Sky Parks and Open Space Draft Plan with the condition the District creates an annual work plan identifying action steps each year to submit to each County. Jone Olsen seconded, all approved.

5. Announcements

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM



Mary Wheeler, Chair



Ciara Wolfe, Secretary