

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County  
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m. March 2, 2015  
Community Service Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Roll Call of Members**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Blake Hempstead, Shawn Hansen, Stephanie Galle, Kevin Hart, Robin McKernan; Shawn Hansen requested to be excused at 6:00 p.m.

Absent: Mark Vuckovich, Paul Furthmyer

Others Present: CEO Connie Ternes Daniels; John Leo Sladich, Interim Parks & Recreation Director; Julie Hoffman, Clerk of Commission (to take minutes)

**Approval of Minutes**

CEO Ternes Daniels stated that no formal minutes were taken at the last Parks and Recreation Board Meeting which was held in March 2014. She added that there was no quorum or secretary present at that meeting.

**Election of a New Chair and Vice-Chair**

Kevin Hart stated that Mark Vuckovich gave a verbal notice that he was resigning from the Parks and Recreation Board. Given that Mr. Vuckovich was the Chair, Kevin Hart suggested that the Board nominate a new Chair, as well as a Vice-Chair at this time.

Blake Hempstead volunteered to serve as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Robin McKernan moved to appoint Blake Hempstead as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board; seconded by Shawn Hansen.

Motion carried unanimously.

Robin McKernan volunteered to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Shawn Hansen moved to appoint Robin McKernan as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board; seconded by Kevin Hart.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports to Board

- A. John Leo Sladich reported that he has been taking care of winter duties and has been busy removing snow from the trails. He stated that he gave his staff additional time last year take care of the leaves.

He stated that he and his staff has begun to get the Charlotte Yeoman complex ready for baseball. The first game is scheduled March 26<sup>th</sup>. With regard to Washoe Park, he informed the Board that the parking lot will not be paved. In addition, the lot size will be reduced from 70-feet wide down to 36-feet wide. He is concerned about the first three weekends in July at Washoe (July 4<sup>th</sup>, Goosetown and Art in the Park). Historically, all three weekends create a number of issues and he anticipates the same issues will arise this year. He specifically stated that he is concerned about fireworks in the park. CEO Ternes Daniels stated that although fireworks are not allowed in any parks in Anaconda, it is difficult to enforce.

Lastly, Mr. Sladich informed the Board that construction on the park bathrooms will begin in the near future. CEO Ternes Daniels stated the money for this project is in the budget.

- B. Stephanie Galle updated the Board with regard to Anaconda Little League baseball and Lil' Copperhead Football. She stated that the County allowed little league to use the Charlotte Yeoman Complex last year. Many compliments were received with regard to the complex from out of town teams. She informed the Board that the fee is \$45.00 for baseball and \$25.00 for t-ball and that no child/family is turned away due to their inability to pay.

Ms. Galle reported that over 100 kids participated in Lil' Copperhead Football last fall. She stated that the program received a generous donation from Butte Orthopedics that enabled them to purchase brand new helmets for the program. In addition, a sponsor donated insurance to the program and the County provided storage. She stated that the fee is \$45.00 for tackle football and \$25.00 for flag football. Next year, the program is hoping to partner with Butte so that the kids can play teams in this area. Last year Anaconda partnered with Helena and she stated it did make it difficult for some families to continue participating in the program due to the travel expense.

- C. Shawn Hansen reported that high school spring sports begin on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He stated this includes softball, tennis and track. He informed the Board that State A Softball will be held in Anaconda this year. He stated that the tennis courts are in good shape. However, there is a crack on one of the courts that needs to be repaired.
- D. Ed Delaney reported that he had 90 girls participate in volleyball this year. During basketball, 86 boys participated and 82 girls participated. He stated that Lincoln School only sets aside \$100.00 for supplies. He stated the community steps up to volunteer

and help with the program. Shawn Hansen stated that Ed does an excellent job with the limited resources he has available to him.

## **Budget**

- A. CEO Ternes Daniels went over the current appropriation for infrastructure projects. She informed the Board that the design for the bathrooms has been done and will be going out for bid in the near future. She stated that the Charlotte Yeoman Complex will need a new roof. She also informed the Board that the some of the parks have an antiquated water system that will need work as well and added that work on the bathrooms cannot be completed until the water systems are replaced.

Blake Hempstead stated that he would like the County to consider installing new lights or updating the current lights at the Washoe Park complex. He stated that there are dead spots in the system, especially behind homeplate. He suggested speaking with a representative from Northwestern Energy to see if they would be willing to make a donation to assist with updating the lights. He stated he will look into the option of LED lights as well. He also commented that the Washington Foundation recently donated a large sum of money to Butte Silver-Bow to assist in the construction of their Legion baseball fields. He will contact Butte CEO, Matt Vincent to get some more information. Karen Yeoman, 1417 W 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ms. Yeoman stated that it would be great to have lights at the Charlotte Yeoman complex as well.

Stephanie Galle suggested checking into the solar grant program through Northwestern Energy.

Robin McKernan suggested contacting Jennifer Titus at the Washoe Park Foundation for assistance with grant writing should the need arise.

CEO Ternes Daniels encouraged the Board to research grant opportunities.

Neil Warner: Mr. Warner had questions about the budget with regard to Repairs/Maintenance; Building Repairs & Maintenance; and Equipment Rental/Lease. With regard to Equipment Rental/Lease, John Leo Sladich stated that some wiring had to be pulled at Benny Goodman Park and the Parks Department had to rent equipment in order to do this. CEO Ternes Daniels stated she would have to pull the remaining invoices to get specific information.

## **Miscellaneous**

- A. Parks & Recreation Director Position

CEO Ternes Daniels informed the Board that a decision was made when Pat Huber stepped down to bring on an interim director. John Leo Sladich has been overseeing the

Parks Department since that time. She stated that over the years the structure of the Parks and Recreation Department has changed and it has been a challenge to maintain recreation programs. She thanked the parents, volunteers and community members who have pitched in over the years to keep the recreation programs running.

CEO Ternes Daniels stated that John Leo Sladich is responsible for the Parks Department and has a full plate. She suggested that it may be time to look at having a Parks Director and a Recreation Coordinator.

Kevin Hart stated that this is an important issue that needs to be resolved. He suggested creating a list of qualifications and a draft job description for a Recreation Coordinator and have CEO Ternes Daniels and County Attorney Krakowka review it. Kevin Hart suggested holding another Board meeting in the next few weeks to get this issue resolved.

### **Public Comment**

Neil Warner, 709 Chestnut: Mr. Warner stated that previously Parks & Recreation youth sports programs fees were minimal and supported through tax payers. He expressed concern that since the recreation program was done away with through the County, he stated that his taxes have not decreased and the recreation fees have increased.

CEO Ternes Daniels stated that the County did try to give homeowners a tax break. In addition, she stated that Anaconda Deer Lodge County is the only county in Montana that did not levy the maximum mill amount in the past three years.

John Yeoman, 1417 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mr. Yeoman stated that Anaconda has a very good program and is more affordable than most communities.

Karen Yeoman, 1417 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ms. Yeoman stated that John Leo does a good job with the Parks Department. However, she is concerned with the youth sports programs in the schools, specifically with regard to the kids not learning the rules of the game and not being prepared to compete upon entering middle school.

Stephanie Galle – Ms. Galle stated that Ed Delaney has run the basketball program at Lincoln by himself for years and for the resources he has available to him he does a great job. She asked whether the County has any funds available to help with the program.

Ed Delaney – Mr. Delaney stated that it is difficult to get volunteers to assist with coaching and refereeing. He has had some high school volunteers in the past that have helped referee, but many of those kids play basketball as well so it becomes a conflict.

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ms. Nyman voiced concern with regard to parking at Washoe Park. She stated it was her understanding that the designers made the suggestion that people could park at the hospital or church if the new parking lot at Washoe was full.

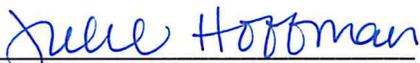
Ms. Nyman also asked if there had been anymore consideration for purchasing a liner for the ice skating rink at the Commons. Blake Hempstead will contact the Rotarians in Phillipsburg to get information with regard to the liner they purchased and what they perceive are the pros and cons to having one.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in the Courtroom.

**Adjournment**

Robin McKernan moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Stephanie Galle. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

  
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Julie Hoffman, Secretary

  
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Blake Hempstead  
Chair, Parks and Recreation Board