

BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION

Minutes - Approved

28 August 2023

5:30 pm

In attendance: Sarah Goldfine, Randy Richardson, Phil Robertson, Wendy Jackson, Michael Green, Jacob Chalif

Visitors:

Randy called the meeting to order at 5:35.

BPC Meeting August 28th, 2023

Present: Sarah Goldfine, Randy Richardson, Phil Robertson, Wendy Jackson, Mike Green, Jacob Chalif

We agreed that the 3rd Monday of each month will be our meeting date. Our next meeting was set for 9/18. Mike offered his studio space as a location.

Randy - Brought up the Cemetery Road access to the park and the damage caused by the floods.

Cy has said it will be approximately \$2k to fix.

Sarah asked if we can use the FLAP \$ to cover this expense retroactively. Perhaps?

Randy thinks we need to do the work now so the trail doesn't deteriorate more. There was a general consensus from the group, although Phil was not on board.

FLAP

- Based on state/town partnership
- Hasn't come through yet
- Route 12 portion of the project is not happening.
- We don't know if all or some of the money is coming our way
- Randy asked Eric Duffy about negotiations and what, if anything, we can do. Answer was nothing and no for now.

The question is raised about whether other money, including the possibility of VOREC funds might be available for repair work?

Jacob - Asked if FLAP funds expire – Randy is not sure, but he believes it might be a requirement that they are used the year they are granted.

Randy – We need to get a plan in place so we are ready to go once we get the money. What are our mission points and priorities? How can we work towards conservations and sustainability within our system?

Randy – We could consider hiring someone (like Kent McFarland who helped us with our park plans) to recommend relocation of our trails at Billings based on flora and fauna?

We spent some time looking at the trail map reviewing our options

Wendy – Motion to spend the funds to repair the cemetery trail.

Sarah – Second.

Vote - All in favor except Phil.

Phil – What is our process for doing work and getting it approved? Brought up because there is not a process now and the need Village Trail.

Mike – Village Trail damage (wonky blowdowns) needs to be addressed and poses a safety threat

Sarah – Should we keep a document of blowdowns on file for all of us to reference?

Randy – Some trails systems use a trail adopter approach with volunteers adopting a section of trail and supporting maintenance. What's our reporting system? How does the public contact us?

Jacob – How would we make our contact information available to the public? Kiosks?

Randy – Trailfinder?

Wendy – Should we each adopt a portion of our parks to maintain?

Actions – Let's create a document to keep an inventory of trail needs

Randy – What's our bigger plan? How about a meeting on the trails in person?

Mike – How do we create our database/document? Inventory from users/town creates public engagement. It educates the public about what is ours. How about a survey on the listserv? It could also be used as a tool for us with FLAP to show our engagement with the community.

Precipice Trail signs

Randy – Do we order them, and where to we place them. Randy will send us samples with language to be used. We talked about putting them at both ends of the trail, as well as junctions with other trails.

Mike – We need more signage to help keep people on the trails.

Meeting Schedule

We discussed having two meetings in September and agreed on a second meeting for the 25th on the trails.

To Dos

Randy – Signs, document for reporting issues, survey

We need to keep track of our work

We need to set up our calendar with tasks and a schedule – possibility of that going onto our spreadsheet/reporting document? Yes!

Jacob - Proposed Trello as an option for our online data management. He's used it with the DOC and will send us examples via email of how they set it up. We agreed that it's worth looking at and would be easier than Google sheets, although there's a learning curve.

Randy – There are other grant opportunities out there. Should we be pursuing Girl Scout Cabin and other needs, or do we wait to find out what happens with the FLAP grant first?

Girl scout cabin – what do we do with it?

Sarah – priority should be trails and park and trail signage before a big project like the cabin.

We agreed that park signage is a priority and agree to put it on the next agenda.

Agenda items for next time:

Engagement with community (Inn, WAMBA, ORT, Private property owners, FOFP, etc.)

Signage

Town Map

Phil brought up the Billings walks with rangers coming up on 9/29 & 10/7. Do we want to participate? Yes

Mike asked if we want to collect emails from residents in our survey so we can have a notification list for events and volunteer days.

Meeting Adjourned