

City of Livingston, City Parks and Trails Committee Draft Minutes

April 28, 2021,

The Parks & Trails Committee met at 6 pm in the Community Room, City-County Building

1) Roll Call

Members: Clay Bolt, Connor Cavigli, Sarah Stands, Rachael Jones, Alison Shannon-Lier, Jeanne Marie-Souvigny, Dorel Hoglund in attendance. Carol Goosey absent.

Guests: Russ Smith, American Legion baseball; American Legion representative Ed Gilbert; public members Carrie Kahle, Scott, Joanna Meacham, Jonathan Hettinger

2) Approval of Minutes

Committee to review and approve April 8 special meeting and March 24 regular meeting minutes

- *Rachael Jones moved to approve both sets of minutes, Sarah Stands seconds*
- *Unanimously approved with no amendments*

3) New Business

- **Jack Weimer Memorial Park/American Legion operations**

Russ Smith, general manager of the American Legion team, provided information.

- District tournament will be for four days at Weimer Park at the end of July (22nd - 25th)
- They are seeing a lot of people use the field outside of normal hours, particular issues are around dogs, kids, and vandalism
- There are also maintenance issues with the field that they would like addressed as soon as possible, especially heading into the tournament
- He asks for support for enforcing exclusion of dogs from the park (signage with city ordinance listed) and ability to lock the park around the time of the tournament and home games.
- Can make sure there is outreach to the local area to make sure they know about the dogs issues and usage outside of normal, expected use
- *Sarah motions that we ask the City to put up new signs that include city ordinances re: no dogs allowed and recommend improved access control (fencing and locks) around the tournament and home games; share that we are happy to help with press and awareness from our own platforms; willingness to review the lease agreement for 2022 and see if there are improvements to be made there; help with fundraising in the future.*
- *Clay seconds*
- *Unanimously approved; Chair to send letter*
- **Recommendation on replacement of flagpole located at Sacajawea Park triangle**
(Location, height, lighting, improvements to existing location)
 - Existing flagpole is 30 ft tall and already broke once in the last year; remains up 24 hrs/day, not lit at night, not in good condition.
 - Public comment:
 - Ed Gilbert, Commander of American Legion Post #23 made comments and provided copy of written statement previously given to City Commissioners.
 - Carrie Kahle made comments.
 - Scott Kautzman, Vice Commander, American Legion, made comments.

- Joanna Meacham made comments.
 - Jonathan Hettinger made comments.
 - Committee comments
 - We expect there will be a downlight on the pole regardless of the flag size
 - Can we explore a volunteer system to manage the flag like the Boy Scouts?
 - SW Chemical Dependency is currently maintaining the landscaping in the triangle and there is no irrigation to it; perhaps we can offer a more formal partnership with SWCD and try to get water to it
 - Need to look at bigger picture, reflect on where we truly honor veterans in a new way in some of our public spaces
 - Concern about spending money on a traffic circle at this time
 - Discussion of space, winds, birds, Veterans Park nearby, budget, wildlife, noise, alternative uses for money, use of staff to maintain
 - A couple of emailed comments also received.
 - *Clay motions to replace the flagpole with the same size flagpole with illumination that complies with Dark Sky Ordinances, improve the landscaping in the triangle area, install sprinklers, electricity (solar would be preferable), and improve curbing and gutters.*
 - *Sarah Stands seconds and amends to explore options with civic groups that can support care and maintenance of the triangle and also ensure that appropriate flag protocols are followed with weather and wind and flag conditions; amendment accepted.*
 - *Unanimously approved. Chair to send letter to Commission.*
- **Correction to priority list (addition of north side trails)**
 - *Rachael moved to approve the changes, Alison seconded*
 - *Unanimously approved*

4) Old Business

- Updates:
 - NoMowMay – Clay
 - Signs are printed and will be put up soon
 - Will share this program on social media, press release, and put posters up in library and parks and rec offices
 - Clay will draft press release and share this initiative at next city commission meeting and Sarah will post on socials
 - Wishberry Hollow Fairy Village – Connor and Sarah
 - PDF call for artists has been sent to entire committee
 - The event is on for July 31 - August 16
 - Pedestrian bridge across the Yellowstone River at Mayors Landing - Jeanne
 - City commission approved the city's partnership in this project and this is going to move forward
 - North Side trails
 - Easement with HRDC will soon be underway with the city
 - We need to define the easement location and pass to the city to then approve and propose to HRDC
 - Trails & AT Plan progress - Jeanne
 - Walkabout was done this week with the consultants

- Two focus groups scheduled
- Reservoir neighborhood park – Alison
 - Still figuring out the location of where everything will go
 - Murdoch's is going to donate all the fence posts
 - Another firm is donating their landscape architecture time to draft up an image of the proposed park space
 - 2nd Street Bistro also offered to do a fundraising dinner for this project
 - Site visit is next step
- Branding and signs – Jeanne
 - Eubank contract is up for approval at next city commission meeting
- Growth Policy – Sarah and Rachael
 - Huge project - will bring more people into this
- Mayors Landing public process – Jeanne
 - Delayed to next meeting
- Woodlot by PHS – Rachael
 - The area is getting cleared out and starting to look better
 - Future plans are still TBD
- Communications Plan and Media - Connor
 - Connor to work on this further and will discuss and schedule posts out with the committee

5) Public Comments

No additional public comments about items not on the agenda

6) Committee Comments

7) Adjourn meeting

- *Rachael moved to adjourn, Alison seconded*
- *Unanimously approved*