

# City of Livingston Parks and Trails Committee Meeting

## Approved Minutes

**November 17, 2021**

The Parks & Trails Committee met over Zoom video conferencing.

### 1) **Roll Call**

- Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Alison Shannon-Lier, Carol Goosey, Clay Bolt, Sarah Stands, Rachael Jones; Connor Cavigli, excused. Dorel, absent.  
Public: Jessica Haas, for Livingston Bike Club and as an interested private citizen

### 2) **Agenda Review** – no changes.

### 3) **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from October 27, 2021 meeting: *Motion to approve by Clay Bolt, seconded by Carol Goosey, unanimously approved*

### 4) **New Business**

- Recommendation to City Commission on PTC vacancy  
Clay met with each candidate for approximately 30 mins and believes Tim Stevens' current short and long term goals as well as experience would be an asset to the Parks and Trails Committee at this time and recommends Tim for the open seat. *Sarah motioned to recommend Tim Stevens' appointment to the City Commission; Carol seconded, approved unanimously.* Jeanne will send recommendation to Commission.
- Myers River View Trail trees
  - Sarah communicated with Mike Kardoos regarding concerns about trees marked for removal along the trail. Mike stated it was part of regular park maintenance and pedestrian safety. The tree removal was flagged by Wendy with Montana Freshwater Partners who spoke with Shannon regarding the removal of the trees. He confirmed the trees are being removed for pedestrian safety and indicated the City would leave as many of the dead trees as possible. Clay shared work being done in Europe related to water infiltration and animals and value of leaving trees for insect use and decay benefits. Jeanne recommended we reach out to the Tree Board and noted annual use of the trees by nesting birds. Sarah suggested a round robin with different stakeholders on different ways to manage the situation. Clay questioned the goal of this management tool and suggested a discussion of not just the benefits to the community but also the ecological benefits. Sarah agreed to reach out to the Tree Board.
  - Public comment from Jessica Hass: she works for the Forest Service, which has similar discussions about tradeoffs. She recommended speaking with the local Forest Service office about the tools that they use. She acknowledged that safety of pedestrians often will trump other concerns.
  - Rachael suggested this is another example of a systemic problem of communication between all the arms and branches of City government. She recommends better understanding how local government comes to these decisions so we can in turn better communicate with the public. Jeanne noted that Sarah reached out to the City

Manager for that specific reason. Rachael suggests communication could improve if we make a recommendation to the City to get the board chairs together regularly.

## 5) Old Business

- No Mow May report
  - Clay shared the success of No Mow May, which established Livingston as a leader in bee conservation. It generated much conversation throughout the City. He had planned a bioblitz but weather did not accommodate. He recommended moving forward and asked about making Livingston a Bee City USA community; expects our next step is to communicate with the City and see if they are on board with making this an annual event. Rachael recommended connecting with the schools and coming up with a list of potential businesses or partners to begin advertising for the program sooner than later for 2022. We agreed to ask the City when we meet with them about 2022 priorities.
  - Public comment from Jessica Hass – suggested approaching ag master gardeners.
- Process for developing PTC priorities for 2022 budget cycle
  - Sarah recommended we ask to meet with Michael Kardoes and Shannon Holmes to go over 2022 budget cycle and the City’s plans for projects. Jeanne will follow up.
- Updates:
  - Reservoir Park recommendation was forwarded to Commission.
  - Logo design – Jeanne reported the design came in today but PTC is unable to take a vote today. Committee agreed to meet in December to vote on a design.
  - Status of Trails and Active Transportation Plan - Sarah noted that the final draft should be coming out in late November or so.
  - Commission discussion of City Communications Policy – Sarah and Alison summarized the City Commission conversation on Nov 16 regarding the City Communication Policy and noted that Dorel was a wonderful advocate and very positive, wanting a policy that encouraged instead of discouraged. Melissa Nootz as well. Sarah mentioned likely conflicts between our bylaws and the communication policy. There is a potential upcoming training for board members and new city commissioners; Jeanne recommended we come up with a list of what we would like to see in communications training in our December meeting.
    - Public Comment – Jessica Haas touched on the difficulty sometimes of learning when the boards are meeting and the topics to be talked about. Recommends the City be even more transparent on this information.
- December meeting – Jeanne will send out a Doodle poll.
- New officers, selection in January
- Social and other media – nothing to update

## 6) Public Comments

- Jessica Haas mentioned concerns about the Bitterroot Trail and how citizens can be assured the trail will be placed back where it was and asked how citizens could better participate in this conversation. Jeanne advised that the public can always go to the City Manager regarding topics like this and the PTC can also keep this topic on the agenda for further updates. Jessica asked the PTC to please keep her in mind if there is anything she can do and please request that the City Manager and City Staff be more communicative about future changes and more transparent so it is not such a shock in the future.

## 7) Committee Member Comments

- Anne Fuller reached out to Jeanne regarding the discussion of a trail from Mayors Landing to O St and the easement along her property. Jeanne advised her this topic is before Park County and there is no action currently before the PTC on this topic but that she could reach out to the City Manager.
- Sarah and Connor were invited for a site visit with Mathieu Menard and Martin Johnson from HRDC regarding the HRDC gulley and potential future plans related to a trail through the gulley. Mathieu plans to touch base with the other north side property owner for further information. Positive feedback on our previous recommendation.
- Jeanne was contacted by a member of the Tree Board regarding further tree placement. Sarah noted that Martin Johnson from HRDC loves the idea of a park in the Reservoir triangle area. He shared he doesn't have concerns about children in the area and that he thought the triangle area belongs to HRDC. This will need to be clarified.

8) **Adjourn meeting** - *Alison motioned to adjourn the meeting and Clay seconded, unanimously approved at 7:17 pm.*