

City of Livingston, City Parks and Trails Committee Meeting Agenda – October 27, 2021

The regular meeting of the Livingston Parks & Trails Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 6 pm. The meeting will be held by Zoom video conferencing. Jeanne-Marie Souvigny, Chair, will facilitate this meeting.

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83653147636?pwd=OVRabXJjQjE2WjBPK2Y1a2lRZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 5314 7636

Passcode: 808583

One tap mobile

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1) Roll Call

2) Agenda Review

3) Approval of Minutes – 5 minutes

- Review and approval of September 22, 2021, regular meeting minutes (*attachment*)

4) New Business – 5 minutes

- Status of Bitterroot Trail

5) Old Business – 90 minutes

- Recommendation on Reservoir Park – Alison (*three attachments*)
- PTC priorities for 2022 budget cycle, including
 - Park County addition of trail bridge over Fleshman Creek to Yellowstone River Pedestrian Bridge PER - Sarah
- Annual Report to Commissioners
- Open seat (*two attachments: letter from Rachael, application from Tim Stevens*)
- Updates:
 - Summary of No Mow May - Clay
 - Logo design
 - Commission decision on Summit Street abandonment request
 - Status of Trails and Active Transportation Plan – Sarah
 - Commission discussion of City Communications Policy
- Decision on alternate dates for November and December meetings
- New officers selection in January
- Social and other media

6) Public Comments

7) Committee Member Comments

8) Adjourn meeting

Note: Emails to the Parks & Trails Committee should be addressed to webmaster@livingstonmontana.org.

City of Livingston Parks & Trails Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

September 22, 2021

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

1) Roll Call

- Committee Members: Carol Goosey, Connor Cavigli, Rachael Jones, Jeanne Marie-Souvinney, Sarah Stands, Clay Bolt, Alison Shannon-Lier, Dorel Hoglund
- Public: Hayes Goosey

2) Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from August meeting: *Motion to approve by Sarah, Rachael seconded, unanimously approved*
- Alison commented that she recognizes that she should have abstained from voting on the Summit Street abandonment request due to a conflict of interest.

3) New Business

- Public Comment on the future of Reservoir Park and how it can be improved
 - Hayes Goosey made comments, asked if everything he has done so far is considered public comment.
 - Alison noted that so far, we have had approximately 105 surveys filled out and returned suggesting the features the public wants to see at this park

4) Old Business

- Recommendation on Logo design
 - Rachael recommended that we finalize our project with Eubank and recommend a logo selection to the city commission allowing Eubank to complete the project.
 - Discussion: Committee offered additional comments on the draft design, which Jeanne and Clay will forward to Megan.
- City's Board Communication and Social Media policies
 - Discussion: Committee members expressed confusion about certain components of the policy related to conversations with the public, the process and communication with staff and others. Dorel will seek clarification.
- Updates:
 - City Commission action on the Summit St. abandonment request – Jeanne reported that the Commission deferred action on this item at its Sept. 21 meeting and will take it up at its meeting on October 5.
 - Sarah provided an update on the progress of the Trails and AT Plan.
- Social and other media – no new updates, still trying to manage the new process.
- Committee appointment – Jeanne reported that the City will advertise the PTC opening for the month of October. New officers will be selected at the January meeting, as required in bylaws.
- November and December meetings – Committee will determine dates, as needed, in October.

- Budget and project priorities for next year – Jeanne reported that the Committee can develop suggestions for parks and trails priorities to be part of the budget process which starts in January.

Public Comments

- Hayes Goosey offered additional comments about the surveys associated with Reservoir Park.

Committee Comments

- None

Adjourn Meeting

- Sarah motioned and Carol seconded to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously at 7:55 pm.

October 21, 2021

Re: Summary of public outreach for Reservoir Park

Fr: Dr. Alison Shannon-Lier, Sarah Stands, Jeanne-Marie Souvigny

Background

The City's parks and trails, like many outdoor recreation places across the state, experienced record numbers of users in 2020 as people sought public areas for recreation, socializing and family time that allowed an escape from the confines of indoor restrictions related to COVID. Many of our local trails and parking lots were full day after day, with heavy use extending into the colder fall and winter months. At the same time, local residents continued to ask for more parks and trails on the north side as well as dog-friendly areas.

In consideration of these factors, the Parks and Trails Committee asked the City Commission to allocate \$50,000, which the Commission approved, for the development of Reservoir Park on the north side of town, a unique large plot of undeveloped, open city land suitable for and already designated as a park but with no amenities like those found at other city parks. The 2012 Parks & Trails Master Plan recommended that Reservoir Park include a fenced off-leash dog area, community gardens and a children's play area, along with parking, sidewalks, picnic shelter, benches and a vault toilet.

Progress to Date

Since the Commission approval, the Parks and Trails Committee have solicited public comments on the development of Reservoir Park. The community and neighborhood residents in particular have shared their views regarding this project in a variety of different venues – community gatherings at the Farmers Market and at Northside Soccer Fields during Saturday games, a site visit at Reservoir Park, several PTC meetings, through a written questionnaire, emails and other means, resulting in substantial public comment, including 90 questionnaires returned and conversations with an estimated 300 people.

Bubble diagrams and idea boards, created by BYLA, an architectural firm that provided their pro-bono assistance to this project, were available at many of these public events. The initial idea boards were expanded in response to public comment at one PTC meeting to include more natural settings.

Amenities people asked for:

- Open natural space
- Preserving and supporting natural species
- Keeping the area natural to enjoy views
- Trails that are maintained
- Fenced, off-leash dog park
- Dog agility course
- Space for children
 - A traditional playground
 - Swings

- Natural landscape to play in
- A natural bike skills area
- Rock climbing boulder
- Open field space
- Sport courts – basketball, tennis, baseball and soccer
- 3D archery range
- Recreational center
- Indoor pool
- Ice rink
- Roller skating rink
- Public restrooms and water fountains
- Community music venue
- Zip line
- ADA accessibility
- Wind block, trees and shade
- Disc Golf Course

Concerns residents shared:

- Financial expense
- Upkeep and maintenance
- Enforcing traffic speeds in the neighborhood
- Parking and access to the park
- Inviting more dogs into the neighborhood, feces and safety
- Conflicts with local fauna that use the space
- Maintaining night sky ordinance
- Hours of access to the park
- Safety issues
- Characteristics of park features/no fencing
- Corporate branding
- Noxious weed control
- Maintain wild flower bloom
- Dog park gate access

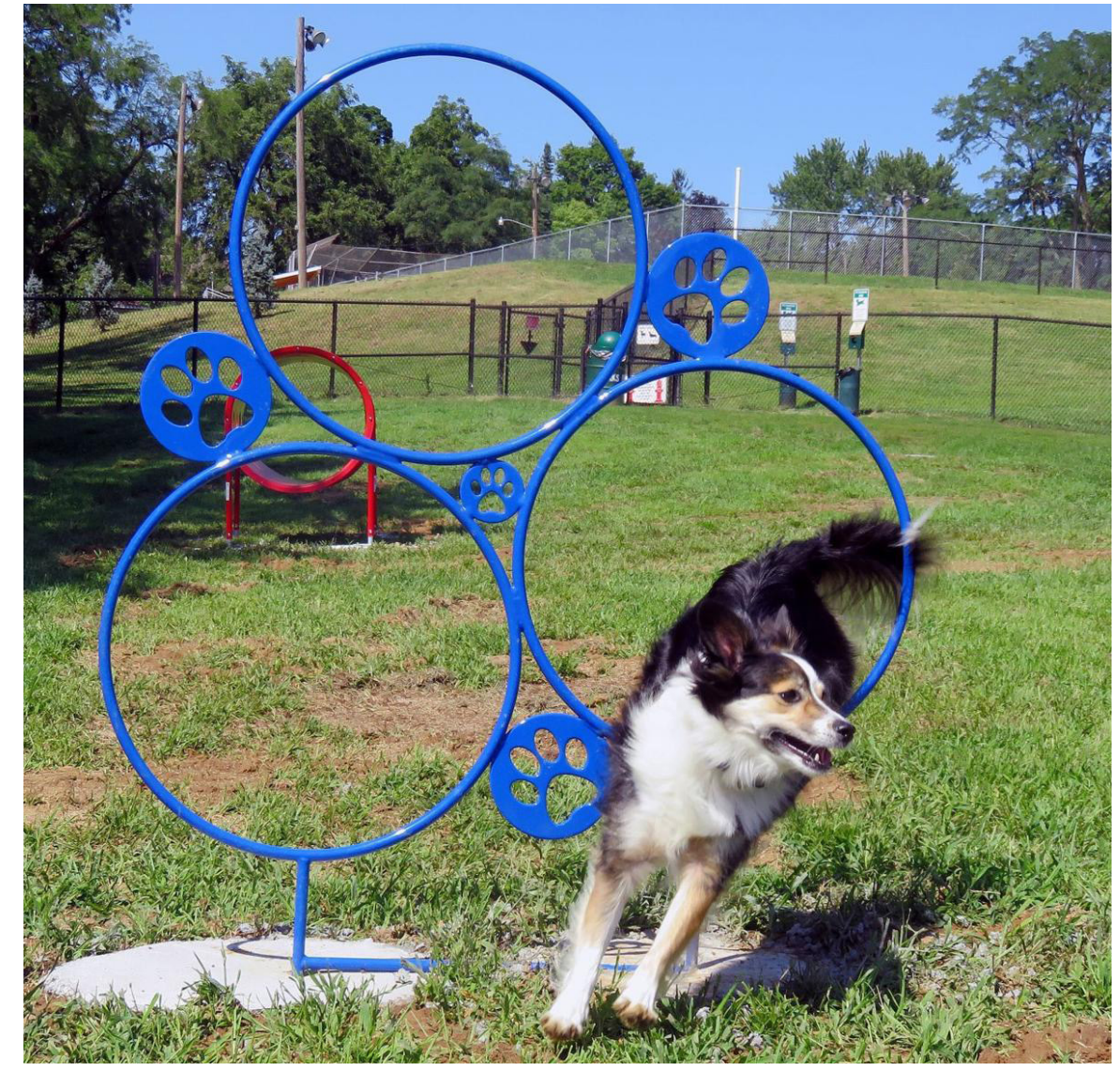
We saw the greatest support for:

1. Kids play area
2. Natural open space
3. Fenced in dog park
4. Bike skills course

PARK ACTIVITIES

BYLA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

DOG PARK



COMMUNITY GARDEN



OVERLOOK



SPORTS

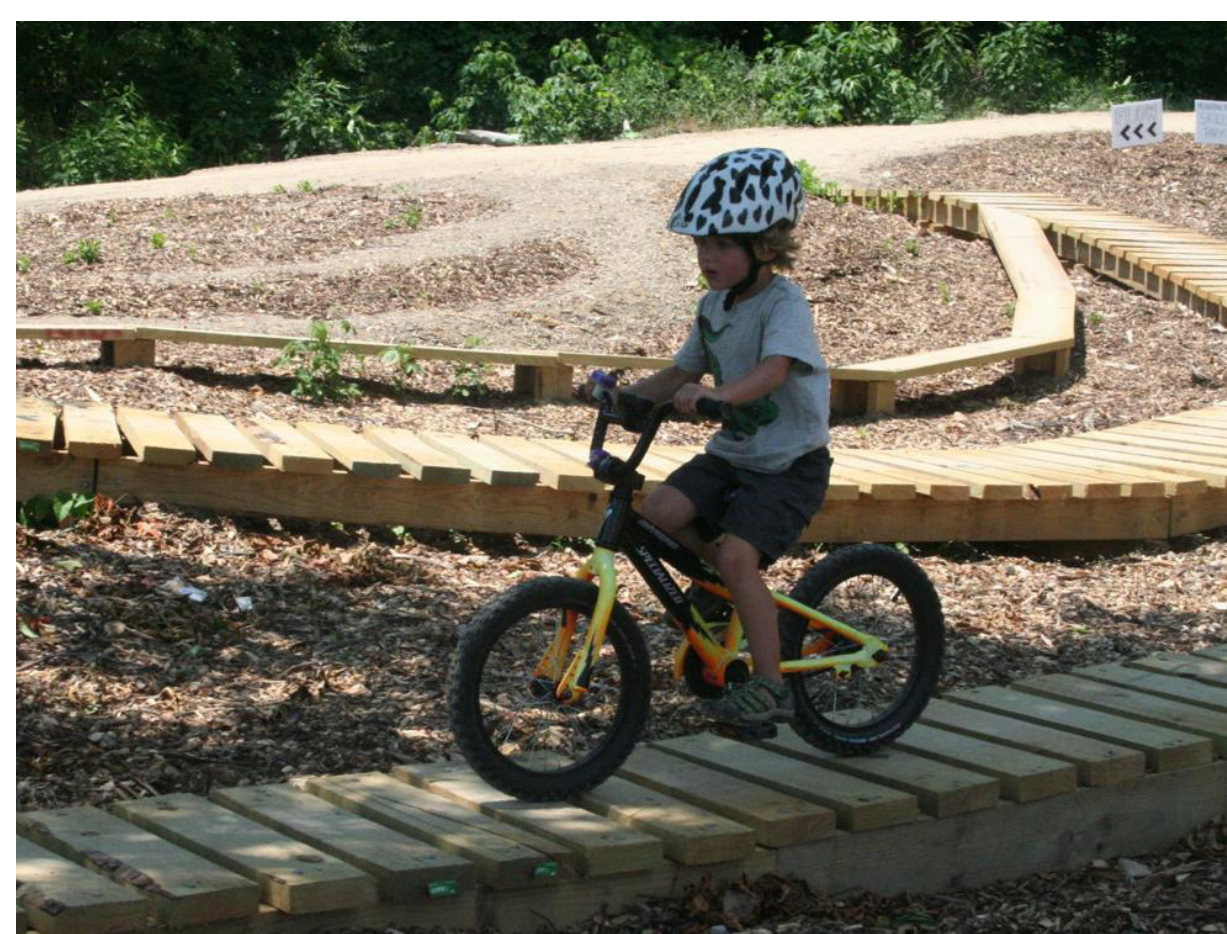


PARK ACTIVITIES

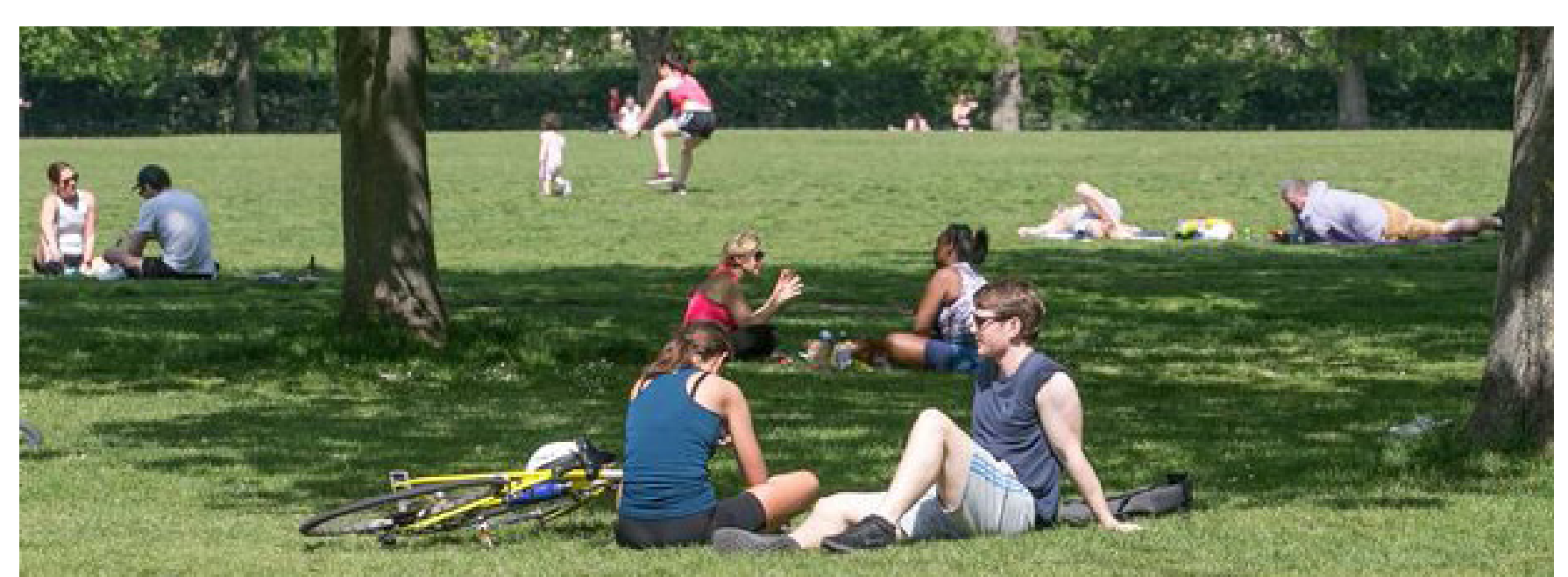
PLAY



SKILLS PARK



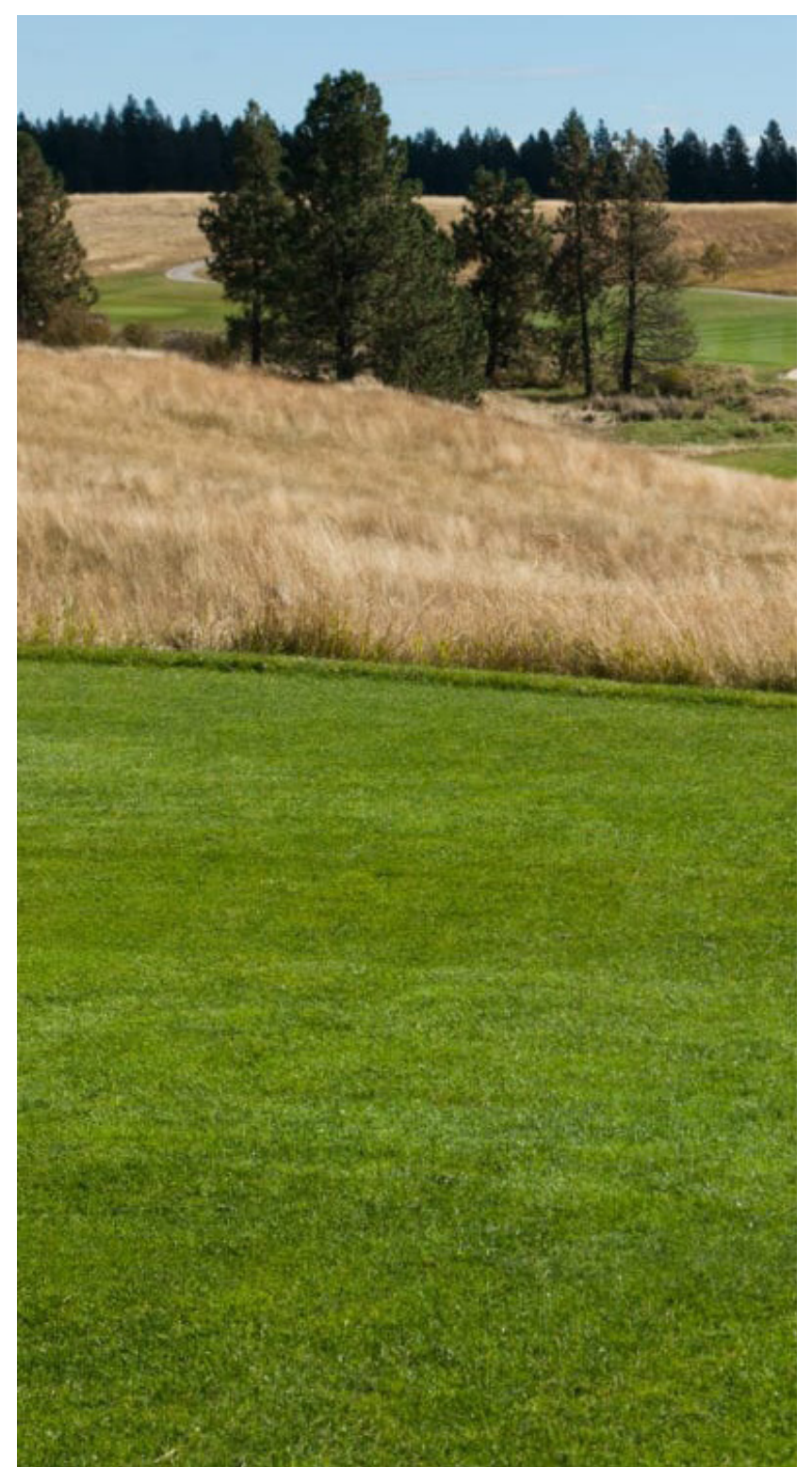
PASSIVE



AESTHETIC / STYLE

NATURAL SETTING

BYLA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS





Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Shade Structure

Overlook + Shade Structure

Dog Park

Entrance

Residential

Grove / Passive

Entrance

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Utility Area

Picnic Shelter

Toilet

Utility

Community Garden

Parking

E Reservoir Street

E Reservoir St

Sports Field

Sports Court

Residential

HRDC Housing

Picnic Shelter

Play

E Summit St

Church

N Main St

N B St



Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Overlook

Shade Structure

Dog Park

Entrance

Residential

Grove

Community Garden

Entrance

Utility

Toilet

Parking

Utility Area

E Reservoir St

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Skills Park

Passive + Lawn

Wind Protection

Residential

HRDC Housing

Play

E Reservoir Street

E Summit St

ND St

Church

N Main St

N B St



Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Overlook

Dog Park

Entrance

Residential

Utility

Entrance

Shade Structure

Parking

Toilet

Utility Area

E Reservoir St

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Passive + Lawn

Play

E Reservoir Street

Residential

ND St

HRDC Housing

Community Garden

E Summit St

Church

N Main St

N B St

10/20/21

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing because, after three years of volunteering and serving as Vice Chair, I have chosen not to reapply for a seat on the Parks and Trails Committee (PTC). Over the years, I devoted countless hours to serve our local government in my capacity as a PTC member. Unfortunately, after three years, I continue to struggle to understand what PTC can do to be helpful to the city staff and commission.

Here's a few examples of what I'm discouraged by: (1) PTC spent countless hours formulating new bylaws, which were approved by you, and which are currently being disregarded; (2) PTC, an advisory board of the commission, has been side-lined during key discussions that affect Parks and Trails in the city, including the recent abandonment decision on the North Side; (3) The absence of onboarding and continuing education for board members has led to an awful lot of confusion and miscommunication around what board members may and may not do.

To complicate matters, the new "Board Communications Policy" appears to set out to further stymy pro action between city staff, board and community members. I was looking forward to the discussion about the communication policy at your 10/5/21 meeting. But the item was removed from the agenda, and city board members were not notified in advance. This kind of casual disregard for volunteer time takes the wind out of the sails of motivated people who are willing to dedicate hours of their precious free time to improving the city.

For a city that is short on resources, I hope you will prioritize the development of better processes and training that will foster more effective partnerships between the city staff and boards. The city has struggled over the years to recruit board members. Now, city boards, including PTC, are full of enthusiastic volunteers, but I worry that if current trends continue, the board members will be driven away.

I have really enjoyed my time on Parks and Trails, and I'm excited about the new developments coming, including the Trails and Active Transportation Plan. I hope to volunteer again in the future. PTC's work over the years has netted a rich set of priorities, protocols and relationships that have improved Livingston's green spaces and trails, and for that, I will always be grateful.

Yours in community,

Rachael Jones
406-220-2204

City of Livingston
Application for Appointed Office
(Revised 3/20/20)

Appointed Position Seeking: Parks and Trails Committee

Date of Application: 10/20/21

Name: Tim Stevens

Signed: Tim Stevens

Address: 315 N. 3rd St.

Telephone: daytime 406-223-3137

after 5:00 p.m.: 406-223-3137

Fax Number: 406-333-2123

e-mail address: tstevensmt4@gmail.com

1. Are you a resident of the City of Livingston? yes
2. Are you a registered voter? yes
3. Will you be at least 18 years of age at the time of the appointment? yes
4. Describe the reasons you are interested in this appointment: Parks and trails are a vital asset to our community.

They are our gathering places; they weave our community together. They are an economic asset. I like what the committee is doing and would like to be part of it.

5. Describe any background, experience and interests that you have which may assist you in performing the responsibilities of this appointment:

A. Occupation: I worked for a National Parks focused organization for 11 years. I now work for a charitable foundation that exposes me to a lot of similar work going on in MT.

B. Education: Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management; Colorado State

C. Experience: Involved in development of Northside park and Mayors Landing.

(please attach a detailed resume if desired)

6. Have you served on any previous boards or in any governmental positions in the past? yes

I served on the Livingston City Commission for a term in '99-2000(ish). Livingston Youth Soccer Board for about 16 years.

7. Are you currently serving on any Community Boards? no

A. If yes, please describe those boards. n/a

8. Current Employer? The Kendeda Fund

9. Are you available for night meetings? yes

10. Are you available for daytime meetings? yes if I have a heads up

11. Do you foresee any potential conflicts of interest that you might have in executing the duties of this appointed office? No

12. If conflict of interest arose for you, how would you deal with it as an appointed member of this board? Recuse myself from voting on the matter in which there's a potential conflict.

THIS APPLICATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR 6 MONTHS AND THEN DISCARDED.

Return completed applications to Faith Kinnick at fkinnick@livingstonmontana.org or drop off in person at the City/County Complex 414 E. Callender St.

Timothy R. Stevens

315 N. 3rd St.

Livingston, MT 59047

406-223-3137

tstevensmt4@gmail.com

Experience

2015-Present The Kendeda Fund
Livingston, MT

Montana and Veterans Fund Advisor

- Oversee all grants and grant activities for Montana, Veterans and Civic Engagement Funds. Manage 80+ grants; About \$10 million in philanthropy annually.

2008-2015 National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)
Livingston, MT

Senior Regional Director, Northern Rockies Region

- Supervise all NPCA programs, staff and campaigns in NPCA's Northern Rockies Region (MT, WY, ID, ND)
- Oversee staff of 8 in Montana and Wyoming
- Develop, implement conservation programs, campaigns and strategies for region
- Lead collaborative conservation efforts and engage wide variety of stakeholders and interests in local and national priority work
- Implement and oversee comprehensive strategy to engage and ally with new and diverse partners across the range of backgrounds and interests in priority issues and work
- Oversaw creation and application of Yellowstone Pronghorn restoration program, focused on engaging park-adjacent landowners in voluntary pronghorn habitat restoration projects
- Lead staff in execution of key national programs, including NPCA's Landscape Conservation program

2004-2008 National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)
Livingston, MT

Senior Manager, Yellowstone Program

- Managed all aspects of the successful launching, management and operation of one of NPCA's most productive and highest profile field offices.
- Initiated and led 'Gateways to Yellowstone,' an educational/outreach project focused on developing new collaborative partnerships with non-traditional allies in Yellowstone's gateway communities.
- Responsible for securing all financial support for office from a combination of grants, donors, members and events. Successfully grew budget by over 60% in three years.
- Developed strong working relationships with state and federal agency partners, researchers, elected officials and their staffs, area business and community leaders,

landowners, local citizens and other non-profit organization representatives.

- Facilitated and led multi-organizational coalitions on a variety of issues and projects. Within NPCA, both led and participated in many team-based efforts and projects.
- Designed and implemented science and fact-based NPCA programs addressing many of the most complex natural resource issues facing our region.
- Gained substantial experience in the area of communications through extensive work with the media, writing, conducting outreach programs in communities and one on one meetings.
- Developed new field office positions, hired, trained, mentored and supervised staff. Oversaw the successful initiation of both an endowed internship program as well as a 2-year Fellowship program.
- Gained substantial experience working independently, crafting and implementing program and fundraising plans, developing and managing budgets and contracts.

1994-2004 Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Bozeman, MT

Issues and Outreach Coordinator

- Designed and implemented science-based conservation programs geared toward solving many of the region's most complex and pressing conservation challenges.
- Developed strong working relationships with many local, regional and national organizations, state and federal land managers, area landowners, local citizens and regional leaders.
- Gained significant experience in public speaking, communications, coalition building, campaign planning and execution.
- Extensive experience gained in working with non-traditional allies, such as the religious community and hunters and anglers.
- Served as acting Program Director for nearly two years. Supervised staff of seven, oversaw development and implementation of all program-related efforts and crafted and implemented annual program plans for the entire organization.

1991-1994 National Wildlife Federation Boulder, CO

Endangered Species Program Western Regional Coordinator

- In a team environment, developed and implemented a national conservation program for the nation's largest conservation organization.
- Worked autonomously in field office, successfully coordinating campaign with staff spread throughout the U.S. Responsible for region that included 17 western states.
- Valuable experience gained in outreach and organizing, working with diverse interests, working in coalition and teams, building scientific understanding, working with Congressional staff and knowledge of the legislative process.
- Organized numerous events and trainings across the country, helped initiate local student and citizen groups. Extensive public speaking experience gained (over 200 public presentations given). Worked closely with state-based hunting organizations.

1989-1990 National Wildlife Federation Boulder, CO

Cool it! Campus Program Western Regional Coordinator

- With team of five, designed and implemented a national campus-based outreach and organizing program focused on climate change.
- Responsible for organizing diverse set of campus-based groups, events and projects in 17 western states. Gained extensive public speaking and media experience.
- Assisted and trained groups in organizational development and strategic and campaign planning and implementation.

Education

1991 Colorado State University Ft. Collins, CO

- B.S., Natural Resource Management
- President and co-founder, Student Environmental Action Coalition

Interests

Mountaineering, hunting, running, hiking, camping, skiing

Activities

- 2001-2017- Livingston Youth Soccer Association- Held many titles over the years- Board Chair, Vice Chair, Competitive Committee chair, Rec Committee Chair, coach, referee
- 2004-2010- Chair- Restoring Eden, a faith-based conservation organization.
- 1999-2001- Vice-Chair, Livingston City Commission. Received highest vote tally in 1999 city-wide election.