

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HAILEY PARKS & LANDS BOARD
Held January 8, 2008**

Present: Board Members Janet Fugate, Tom Downey, Jill Swanger, Cheryl Kramer, Dean Hernandez, Darin Sales and Kathy Noble; Tom Hellen, Public Works Manager, Beth Robrahn, Planning Director, and Becki Keefer, Parks Project Coordinator.

Proposal to name Fox Acres Triangle Demonstration Garden:

John Valenzuela briefly discussed some of the Fox family history, and eloquently stated his reasons to name the garden after Dr. William Fox, and described his fascination with the family. He supports the xeriscape concept as well. Janet asked if he was comfortable leaving “Memorial” out of the name, and he was. Janet went on to say how much she enjoys hearing the history of our earlier citizens and community.

There was a brief discussion of reviewing signage for the garden that would reference “Doc Fox” or “Dr. Bill” and the Fox family’s contributions to our community.

Cheryl moved to name the garden, “The E.W. Fox Demonstration Garden”, and Jill seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Darin moved to approve the minutes for December 5th as corrected, and Tom seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Quigley Canyon Annexation:

Janet noted that this item had been continued from the Regular Meeting held December 5, 2007. She invited Board members to identify their main issues for further discussion:

Cheryl: What happens to land if the golf course is unsuccessful? (Unknown.)

Janet: Uncomfortable with BCRD receiving ownership of the golf course property. Because this is an annexation, and the golf course will impact the current citizens of Hailey, there should be some benefit to the citizens to offset the impacts. Janet feels that the golf course asset should be given to the city, who can then hire BCRD to manage the facility. How will the Nordic facility be managed – is Rick Kapala a subcontractor to the Rec District? Revenues should be shared with the city.

Tom: BCRD thinks that the golf course is going to be a major fundraiser for district programs, that the course will generate a positive cash flow. He agrees that it will be a huge tangible asset within our city. It should be deed-restricted for recreational uses only. The city could contract with whomever to run the golf course.

Kathy: Would like better definition of the wildlife corridors. Has serious concerns with directing animals to specified corridors. Homeowners cannot complain about wildlife eating their landscaping. She has big problems with dogs that belong to irresponsible owners, and dogs are a major threat to wildlife.

Janet agrees that dogs are a growing issue of concern across the entire community, and enforcement is a large part of the problem.

Darin asked about fencing restrictions to meet Fish & Game concerns. John Gaeddert, representative for the applicant, said that the wildlife mitigations were developed with the guidance of a retired Idaho Fish & Game officer, and reviewed by now-retired IF&G officer Roger Olsen.

Tom: Felt that the little parks scattered throughout the development are, by design, exclusive to and provided for the residents of Quigley. Residents of other neighborhoods in Hailey are not likely to come across town to use these spaces, with the exception of Quigley Pond. The Pond is a community asset that would draw users from the entire community.

Tom, Kathy and Janet strongly agree that the Pond needs public restrooms; that park is the community park.

Tom continued that he likes the town square concept, which may meet some additional city recreation needs.

There was discussion of the trails' use in the winter. Tom noted that the Nordic groomer can be up to 12' wide, which could damage plantings and possible summer-use trails underneath the snow. The Nordic plan, which is not complete, should be reviewed for compatibility with the summer trails. Dean and Tom expressed concerns with running the grooming machine over 10' concrete trails.

Dean explained that crusher fine is basically decomposed granite, a common surfacing material. He would like to see a permeable trail surface to provide better drainage. These materials, when compacted, would drain better and be easier to maintain than asphalt or concrete.

John Gaeddert explained that the golf course land would be deed to BCRD; they are ok with deed restrictions on the land for recreational use only. A financial feasibility study for the golf course is being reevaluated and updated at BCRD's request. The earlier study had tourist use in July and August driving the profitability of the golf course. Season passes (affordable golf) may not provide economic feasibility. Cheryl felt that the community understood season passes with restricted use times in order to minimize loss of revenues.

In regards to concerns with wildlife corridors and dogs, he explained that the CC&Rs have specifics – wildlife-friendly fencing to contain dogs, visual barriers to provide cover for the big game, snowmobile-packed path to encourage game to move where appropriate, “Closed for wintering wildlife” signs posted on the slopes at the north side of the canyon. The pond level will also be drawn down to 3' to minimize hazards.

On a side note, John suggested that Nordic trails could be groomed up Deadmans Gulch and snowmaking may be possible. Tom said that the Nordic course needs more kilometers to make the Nordic lodge economically feasible. John said they were looking at a place for build a Lake Creek-style hut for young racers, add additional kilometers, add snowmaking, and explore night lighting for skiing after dark, subject to Fish & Game restrictions.

There will be plat notes added, putting all residential owners on notice that they are responsible for wildlife damage to their own landscaping; no feeding of wildlife, no hay stored in the open; dogs have to be kept on leash, voice command etc.; and, winter closure of the public lands to the north.

Janet asked why deed the golf course land to the Rec District and not to the city? John said because the city never wanted it.

Tom Hellen pointed out that the city government politics have changed, and this Board is leaning towards asking for the land. John said that several options are available to ensure use of this property for public benefit. Kathy added to continue to manage property to Audubon standards to reduce water consumption. Janet said the Board was trying to ensure a continued benefit to the citizens of Hailey, and she wants the Rec District to benefit from this proposal, as well. John said it was a fundamental question that all the parties would have to grapple with. BCRD has already invested \$225k in the project; it's the principle, not the contractual. John felt that the Board should concentrate on zoning the 198 acres of golf course as RGB, and that the landowner wants to honor earlier agreements with BCRD.

Kathy asked to see the Nordic plan when it became available; which trails would be groomed in the winter for Nordic? Tom pointed out the lack of 10' separated pathway along Fox Acres Road, and John agreed that the plans should be revised to more safely accommodate young bikers.

When are the single-track trails going to be built? John replied that the community trail to replace the current Quigley Road would be #1, and the single-track trails would depend on BLM approval. The Toe of the Hill Trail on both sides of the canyon would be Phase I. Some trails, though, interface with stream work permits, and that could be a lengthy process.

The Board asked John and Beth for a timeline of the application. John said that his goal was to get permits by fall 2009, and their goal is to get the community benefits built at the beginning of the project.

Beth said that since there were still a lot of aspects on this application to consider, the Board should just give her a memo saying: where we were at present, what were some of our concerns, what parts do we like, etc. Janet noted that we have not yet discussed:

- Landscape planting lists (plans are on file at Beth's office.)

- Parks

- Trails at waterways

- Maintenance and construction of hillside trails

- Nordic trails design

- Pond and waterways

- Connectivity at Fox Acres only

It was agreed to continue review of the application at our regular February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.