

**SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS
OF THE
RAVALLI COUNTY PARK BOARD**

REGULAR MEETING 10:00 AM

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

**Commissioners' Meeting Room
County Administration Building,
215 S. 4th St, Hamilton, MT 59840.**

Present:

Gary Leese

John Ormiston

Kyle Barber

Wally Deschene

Bob Cron

Matthew Roth

Commissioner Dan Huls and Penney Howe are attending a previously scheduled event.

Denise Katzmeyer, minutes

1. Call to Order – President Gary Leese.

Kyle Barber has temporarily left the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2025

Discussed new procedures: Gary reviewed the new process of minute taking using the Granicus System. Minutes will be run by Denise Katzmeyer, Ravalli County Administrative Assistant.

It was determined that, going forward, Bob Cron will send the upcoming agenda to Denise who will then send it out with any associated documents, to the Park Board members, one week prior to the monthly meeting.

With these changes, it was determined that the position of an official Secretary will no longer be needed.

[Attachment - 12-10-2025 DRAFT Minutes](#)

Bob Cron moved to approve the minutes for the Parks Board Meeting of December 10, 2025 as presented. Seconded by John Ormiston. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted “aye” (5 – 0).**

Kyle Barber has returned to the meeting.

4. Public comment: Afforded to allow public to comment prior to meeting.

None.

President Gary Leese approved to amend the Agenda for the omitted item of the Treasurer's Report.

5. Treasurer's Report

Present:

Jana Exner, CFO

Bob Cron moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Seconded by John Ormiston. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted "aye" (6 – 0).**

Penney Howe has joined the meeting.

Per President Leese, amendment to the agenda was made to allow public comment on New Business: Agenda item 6 A.

6. Blodgett Park vandalism and proposal for road material.

Present:

Dennis Mendrey, Hamilton Rotary Club

The Rotary Club oversees the maintenance of Blodgett Park. Donaldson's has donated some of the road base, the Rotary Club paid the remaining costs of what has already been delivered. Proposed that someone drop off 15-16 yards truck at a designated spot, he would continue to maintain the area and road for five-plus years. Dennis presented a price sheet from Donaldson's highlighting the material that has already been used. John Ormiston has agreed to approach Donaldson's for price list for the remaining needed road materials and will present at next month's meeting.

Bob Cron made a motion to approve the Massa bill for \$112.00, to replace the Stolen supplies from the Blodgett Park Maintenance Supply building. Seconded By John Ormiston. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted "aye" (7 – 0).**

7. Old Business:

A) Affirm \$10,000.00 support for Roberts Trail – Kyle Barber

Comment:

Jana Exner, CFO

Kyle Barber moved to approve the Park Board commitment of \$10,000.00, be paid to the Robert Trail Foundation. Seconded by Bob Cron. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted ‘aye’ (7 – 0).**

B) Status on Big Corral Park Master Plan – Bob Cron

Discussion was held on the appropriate days to hold the Open House event, to be held in the Administrative building downstairs meeting room. The public will be invited to vote for one of three possible Plans that are in the running, at three separate stations.

There will also be stations for voting on other things such as placement of interpretive signs (along trail or in gazebo?). Gary and Bob will be on sight to answer questions. Penney volunteered to assist on both days.

Matthew Roth made the motion for the Open House event to be held on February 18, 2026 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM and Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Seconded by Penney Howe. Public comment on motion: Jeff Jones. Discussion: none. **All voted “aye” (7 – 0).**

Board consensus: Notification will be placed into the paper of record at least a week prior to events, to go out on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 and February 18, 2026.

Bob Cron will provide copies of the proposed plans to the Park Board at the February 11, 2026 meeting.

C) Big Corral Park Supporters: MOU, members, anything additional for Park Board.

Nothing at this time.

Public Comment: none.

D) County transfer of Waincrist Meadows Park to Darby; update on possible decision.

Tabled until Commissioner Huls has joined the meeting.

President Gary Leese asked Dan for any updates. There are none at this time.

E) Results from joint meeting with BCC, on December 11, 2025; Space Age request for consideration on a pro-rated fee, status of efforts for a new lease.

Commissioner Dan Huls has just joined the meeting.

Dan Huls: There was an inquiry from someone interested. He has put them in touch with Space Age but has not heard if they have come to an agreement. It is a transferrable lease. Space Age will start moving out on Monday, January 19th, 2026.

John Ormiston has been tasked with looking into what needs to be done to secure the building, i.e., electric bill transfer, septic system status, etc.

Public comment:
Paula Carney

8. New Business:

B) Upper Woodchuck Subdivision: cash-in-lieu discussion – Kyle Barber

Question was called by Matt Roth against the Motion made to recommend to BCC that the determination of the Cash-in-Lieu value, regarding Upper Woodchuck Subdivision, be made on fair market value rather than the assessed value, through an appraisal, based upon the fact that the project is already in process and could be litigated.

Kyle Barber made a motion for the Park Board to submit a recommendation to the County Commissioners, regarding the Upper Woodchuck Estates Major Subdivision, that the Cash-in-Lieu payment be based on the fair market value through an appraisal, rather than an assessed value. Seconded by Wally Deschene. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion was held between Board members. Motion carried (5 – 2). Matt Roth voted “nay” on the motion based on the fact they were choosing only one plat rather than all, resulting in the risk of litigation. Penney Howe voted “nay” on the motion based on it already being in process. Commissioner Dan Huls abstained from the vote.

Kyle Barber made a second motion that the Park Board submit a recommendation to the County Commissioners, regarding all major subdivisions currently in process and in the future, that the Cash-in-Lieu payment be based on fair market value through an appraisal, rather than an assessed value. Seconded by Wally Deschene. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. Motion carried (6 – 1). Penney Howe voted “nay” based on current plats already being in process. Commissioner Dan Huls abstained from the vote.

C) Disposition of the three wells along the Stevensville section of Highway 93.

Gary Leese: There are three wells (owned by the County) not being used for anything other than measuring the static water level. The pumps there are not needed. One of the pumps could be pulled and used at Kurtz Lane (Big Corral Park). There is a well at Kurtz Lane but no pump.

John Ormiston made a motion to pull one of the pumps from one of the wells from the Stevensville section of Highway 93, for use on the existing well located at the Big Corral Park. Seconded by Matthew Roth. Public comment: Jeff Jones, Paula Carney, Brian Wrede. Discussion: between the Board members.

John Ormiston amended the motion to pull all pumps, if necessary, from the three wells along the Stevensville section of highway 93, for use on the existing well located at the Big

Corral Park. Seconded by Matthew Roth. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted “aye” (8 – 0).**

D) [Result of January 5, 2025 meeting with BCC regarding revised Park Board procedures.](#)

[Attachment - Resolution No. 4769](#)

Changes were reviewed. Noted by Gary Leese that with the Resolution being approved, the Board can now move on to the Master Plan and the Comprehensive Recreation Plan.

President Gary Leese approved the addition of the Golf Course Lease being added to the agenda.

E) [Golf Course Lease](#)

Report by Bob Cron. After reading through the lease terms, it has been identified that the lease is in place until 6/30/2030. No decisions are necessary at this time.

Comments:
Jeff Jones

9. [Election of Officers](#)

John Ormiston moved to keep Gary Leese as President and Bob Cron as Vice President. Seconded by Kyle Barber. Public comment on motion: none. Discussion: none. **All voted “aye” (8 – 0).**

10. **Next Meeting February 11, 2026**

11. [Adjournment](#)

John Ormiston moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gary Leese. All voted “aye” (8 – 0).

Denise Katzmeyer, Administrative Assistant