



MISSOULA ACTIVE KIDS

Individuals, agencies, businesses and organizations committed to enhancing and increasing kids' physical activity.

Founding members: Missoula Parks & Recreation, Missoula Family YMCA, University of Montana, Forum for Children & Youth, Missoula City-County Health Department

December 8, 2010 Meeting Highlights Missoula City-County Health Department 3:30-5PM ROOM 210

Present: Nina Cramer & Trish Foster Missoula Forum for Children & Youth; Jason Shearer, Keri McHugh & Amanda Andrews Missoula Family YMCA; Rachel Vielleux Missoula County Superintendent of Schools; Mariah Leuschen U. S. Forest Service; Lisa Moisey Missoula County Park Program; Elizabeth Strong & Eva Dunn-Froebig Run Wild Montana; Donna Gaukler, Scott Stires & Shirley Kinsey Missoula Parks and Rec; Phil Smith City Bike Ped Office; Bryan Palmer Washington Middle School Student; Layne Rolston The Good Food Store; Greg Oliver, Rebecca Morley and Mary McCourt Missoula City-County Health Department.

Joint Use Agreements

Donna Gaukler & Shirley Kinsey led the discussion on joint use. Joint use of public lands is a strategy to increase opportunities for children and adults to be more physically active. It refers to two or more entities — usually a school and a city or private organization — sharing indoor and outdoor spaces like gymnasiums, athletic fields and playgrounds. The concept is simple: share resources to keep costs down and communities healthy.

Donna reported that she has attempted to enter into joint use agreements with MCPS since she has arrived in Missoula, but has not been successful. The main discussion focused on changing the norm of what public spaces include: not only are they parks & trails, but are schools, school grounds & school buses. How can we move our community to have greater access to public facilities in order to increase the opportunity for physical activity, especially to those who are least able to afford memberships & transportation? Nina Cramer from the Missoula Forum for Children & Youth, Youth Development Network, shared that a recent poll of 102 parents showed

that parents want more free/modestly priced physical activity opportunities for their children. Missoula Parks & Recreation will be meeting with MCPS along with City Councilman Bob Jaffe to once again discuss joint use. Mary McCourt suggested that she write a position paper on behalf of Active Kids in order to weigh in on joint use. (This White Paper is available on the Active Kids page of the Missoula City-County Health Department website:

Updates

Missoula Parks & Recreation: offering a new basketball program for 4th, 5th & 6th grades on Friday nights. Also adding adult Pilates class. Shirley proudly unveiled the City of Missoula Open Space & Trails Map. This is a great resource that shows not only the trails but the distances of all in-town, Mount Sentinel, Mount Jumbo & North Hills trails. It also includes bike routes and bike lanes. It can be purchased for \$4 at Currents, Montana Natural History Center and Bob Wards.

The Missoula Family YMCA was happy to announce that the Active 6 has at least 176 kids who have signed up for memberships. On any given Tuesday or Thursday 70-80 sixth graders are showing up for the specialized programming.

Next Active Kids meeting will be sometime in March. A Doodle Survey will be circulated to ensure the best times.