

RESOLUTION No. 3599

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF RED LODGE, MONTANA SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND NAMING OF AN OBSERVATORY WITHIN VAN DYKE PARK;

WHEREAS, the community’s demographics, trends and recreational interests have grown to appreciate the nature of our rural dark skies and many desire to observe night skies at a safe, publicly accessible and dark location; and

WHEREAS, amateur astronomers, astrophotographers, students, enthusiasts do not have a secure and sheltered place to observe the night skies in Red Lodge, and;

WHEREAS, there is significant support for an observatory in the city of Red Lodge; and

WHEREAS, resolution 3459, dedicating Van Dyke Park as a permanent open-space park with trails provides for additional recreational opportunity and limited building; and

WHEREAS, Hero’s STEAM Center Board has proposed building an Observatory at a northcentral location in Van Dyke Park upon a cement slab that shall not exceed 20’ by 20’ and whose structural dimensions shall comply with allowed uses and dimensional standards for the P-1 district and;

WHEREAS, a new pathway to the observatory of the same materials as the existing park trail will be created to minimize trampling of the Parks’ natural vegetation; and

WHEREAS, Hero’s STEAM Center and Red Lodge Dark Skies volunteers are willing to facilitate building the observatory and create the pathway using funds raised independently of the City, and;

WHEREAS, Hero’s STEAM Center Advisory Board desires to name the Observatory, “Whistler Observatory”, in memory of Ken Whistler, the founder of Hero’s STEAM Center, and;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Red Lodge, Montana that:

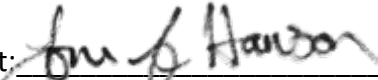
1. The City supports the concept of the Whistler Observatory to be developed at Van Dyke Park;
2. The City agrees to review the design of the structure to be submitted by Hero’s STEAM Center for acceptability;
3. At the time a design for the Observatory is approved by the City, the City agrees to meet with Hero’s STEAM Center Board to discuss construction, ownership, operation and liability of the observatory.

This resolution shall become effective upon passage and approval of the Mayor and Council.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council the ____ day of April, 2022.

FOR THE CITY OF RED LODGE, MONTANA:

By: 
Kristen Cogswell, Mayor

Attest: 
Loni Hanson, City Clerk