

CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 7, 2019

4:00 PM

Greenough Park

1001 Monroe St.

Missoula MT, 59802

Please dress appropriately for weather and some light hiking. There are currently no restroom facilities available in the park.

Members present: Beverly Dupree, Carol Fischer, Kathleen Kennedy, John Pierce, Chris Ryan, Karen Sippy, Hannah Specht, Giles Thelen

Members absent: Jamison Starbuck

Non-voting members present: Liz Bradley

Others present: Staff- Morgan Valliant, Jolanda Cummings and Ryan Sudbury

1. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2019

Correction to the September 9, 2019 Minutes

1. Correct spelling of last name of Jack Schultz page 1, Public comment on non-agenda items.
2. Correct wording on page 1, Discussion item 3.1.1 from "Yes they will be completing the work" to "They are paying the city to restore product."
3. Correct spelling on page 3, Discussion item 3.3.3, paragraph 2 - correct Leigh as Lee.

September 9, 2019 Minutes were approve with amendments.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items

None

3. Action Items

None

4. Discussion items

4.1 Greenough Park 13 Points

John Pierce provided the history of Greenough Park, explaining how the 13 points developed.

Morgan Valliant discussed the importance of the committee and need to make sure the intent of the 13 points is upheld as the Greenough's would of envisioned the park. Morgan pointed out that there are sections within the 13 points that no longer exist

or don't work because of the observation of habitats in the area. In the long term, the goal would be to develop a master plan for Greenough Park.

Morgan Valliant relayed that the first survey done of the park was in 2011. At that time the City of Missoula discovered there were 26 parcels that had encroachments. Attempts of resolution with homeowners were made and were unresolved.

Ryan Sudbury explained the issues the City has encountered; survey was not completed in 1955 and many landowners don't agree with the survey that was completed in 2011. Ryan listed initial proposals of how to deal with encroachment; remove/ restore, purchase permanent easements, or revoke permits. These did not work and the City of Missoula finally settled on a Park Encroachment Permit.

Ryan Sudbury reviewed the Park Encroachment Permit and highlighted areas within the permit that would stop further encroachment. This would protect the park and also protect homeowners. The permit would be attached to the homeowner's property title until the land was sold and new owner took possession; at that time, the encroachment area would be reviewed and determined if there was public need.

John Pierce- Would homeowners pay taxes on the area of encroachment?

Ryan Sudbury- I don't have an answer to that.

Morgan Valliant- the City of Missoula will have the ability to do spot check and be able to repossess the areas if needed.

4.2 Tour Greenough Park

Weed control strategies, current habitat restoration projects, potential cultural interpretation and current efforts to resolve encroachments into the park.

Morgan Valliant led the group on a tour discussing noxious weeds within the park. Towards the north end of the park, Morgan showed the impact of the Norway maple and noted its large cover area reduces growth of natural habitat. Phase II of the thinning and cutting will enable the City of Missoula to remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the Norway maples along the trail; this will enable the undergrowth to grow and fill in.

John Pierce showed the group an area at the north end of Greenough Park where clippings have been dumped.

Morgan Valliant continued to the south side of Greenough Park. He explained how the channels were constructed and discussed a future potential restoration project of the parking lot.

Committee members next toured the current restoration project on the southwest side of the park. The project will begin fall of 2019 and will consist of reconstructing the bank to help stabilize it and prevent erosion.

The second restoration project to be completed is on south side of park where the metal irrigation pipes are located. This area will be converted back to a natural area with a trail going through center of area. The plan consists of abandoning the current irrigation system.

The tour concluded by observing the area that once was the fish hatchery.

4.3 Review the Development of the Clark Fork Island Recreation Plan and Map

Item was not discussed.

5. Future items

Review the Development of the Clark Fork Island Recreation Plan and Map.

6. Announcements

Morgan Valliant announced that Grant Carlton, Open Space Manager started full time today. He also shared that the Conservation Lands Specialist position has been drafted and is hoping to have it posted soon.

7. CLAC Board Member Q&A on non-agenda items

Morgan Valliant relayed that the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) would meet October 10 at Currents from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Initial Undertakings will be discussed and the committee will make motion if projects should move to approval.

Kathleen Kennedy- Are we going to have sheep?

Morgan Valliant- The rancher's wife fell ill so we were unable to get them this year.

Morgan Valliant discussed having an end of season meeting and discussing future goals. North Hills are currently in the fourth year of rest and small neighborhood groups are trying to get the North Hills sprayed. The pattern of four years of grazing and four years of resting seems to be working. Morgan stated that he would like to create a master strategy plan on how to manage and control weeds.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm