

COPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**October 10, 2019
4:00 PM
Currents
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59802**

Members present: Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Publitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, John Smith

Members absent: David Cole, Regan Whitworth

1. Administrative Business

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes - September 12, 2019 Meeting

Correction to the September 12, 2019 Minutes.

1. Correct wording on page 2, Discussion item 3.3, last paragraph "not eh" to "on the".

Edward Monnig motioned to approve minutes with amendments.

John Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with amendments.

1.3 Announcements

1.3.1 MMC 12.56 Open Space Ordinance Updates

Rob Erickson announced that there is a City Council Public Hearing October 12, 2019.

1.3.2 2019 Open Space Plan/Growth Policies

Joint BCC and City Council Public Hearing is October 21, 2019

1.4 Public/Guest Comments

None.

2. Discussion Item

2.1 Review Open Space Bond Language & 2018 City/County Resolution Pertaining Capital Improvement Undertakings Project Eligibility

Morgan Valliant discussed that OSAC should work with Grant Carlton on developing a process that could be used to implement projects. To help with the development process Morgan provided the Montana Code Annotated 2019 chapter 6. Highlighting area's that pertain to the open space bond language the sections that were discussed; 76-6-104 Definitions, 76-6-106 Acquisition, 76-6-109 Powers of public bodies-- country real

property acquisition procedure maintained and 76-6-110 Authorization and funding for planning commissions.

Morgan provided Resolution No 2018-111 that links the Open Space bond language to the Montana Code Annotated. Also provided and discussed was the Notice of Missoula County Open Space general obligated bond from November 6, 2018 that was voted on.

3. Action Items

3.1 Initial undertakings, or capital improvements, using 2018 Open Space Bonds

Morgan updated the committee with the Initial Undertaking drafts and gave brief introduction on the projects, estimated budget and how long it would take to implement each project.

The first 2018 Open Space Bond Capital Improvement that was discussed was Missoula Conservation Lands Trailhead Improvement Projects; Waterworks Hill Trailhead and Interpretative trail and Upgrade existing primary, secondary and local access points. Up to \$500,000 of the Open Space Bond was set aside for upgrading trail and trailheads across Missoula's Open Space and Conservation Land System.

The Waterworks Hill Trail head and interpretative is asking for the initial amount of \$135,000 of open space bond funds be spent on Engineering/Surveying/ permitting of trailhead & amenities. The water works trail would begin in 2019 with a completion date of 2021. The upgrading existing primary secondary and local access points is asking for \$165,000 this project, this project has the highest level of infrastructure. Project start in 2020 and take 2-3 years with a lot of match.

The Clark for River Sustainable Access and Restoration Project is asking for \$225,000 for Phase I. This cost would complete the design, engineering and permitting for prospective access points and river restoration. Phase I would take 1 year to complete. Phase II and Phase III are estimated cost for the project and will not have actual cost until plans are completed. Phase II would begin in 2020-2022 with an estimation of \$230,000 of Open Space Bond cost, total of phase II cost is \$1,863,000. Phase II would consist of restoring, planting and maintaining the access points the Open Space Bond cost is \$340,000. This project is a 3 million dollar project with a lot of interest for match.

Open Space Reforestation is asking for \$250,000 which is the full amount included in the bond measure. Total trees would trees to be planted into ground are 457. These would improve Missoula's Urban Forest canopy.

Rob Erickson requested that committee spend 15-20 minutes discussing each project.

Discussion was had about if steps were skipped during the allocation process.

Gwen Jones stated that this was vetted through many conservation partners and elective officials and it lays the base for bonds. Then when it is formalized and created it would come to OSAC. There is a lot of information out there ways to familiarize yourselves with the information.

Discussion was had about the Waterworks Hills and Interpretative trails and Upgrade existing primary, secondary and local access points. It was conversed if the bond language allowed the money to be used for permitting, engineering and design. The

sections within the Montana Code Annotated 2019 allows for the bond to be used and complies with the statute. It was also noted that the ballot language also allows the bond money to be spent on capital improvements which would include permits. There were discussions if the cost would include the final engineering.

The overall amount of trailhead improvements were examined and noted that \$300,000 would be used to build and update trail heads and only \$200,000 would be left on for future projects on conservation lands. The committee considered if the money would be better used to acquire land that needs trails or if they will need more money for trails.

Morgan Valliant informed committee that there are lots of trails that are being completed by conservation and lands mill levees. New acquisitions allowed the area to get ready for the public. The city has never invested in educational information and this is really a priority to managing trails.

Discussion was had on Clark Fork River Sustainable Access and Restoration project and what the public needs and wants were. It was indicated that at the end of phase I that the project would be ready to go to bid. The most unknown portion of this project is the permitting. Partnerships for this project included the Clark Fork Coalition and the water quality district. There was discussion on how far the money would stretch and that there isn't as much match for the initial phase compared to the other projects. This project could be the big project of this bond and it was discussed that it is something that the public wants and will respond well to.

Kristin Akland indicated that the Clark Fork coalition is a huge sponsor for this project.

Morgan Valliant informed the committee that on the poll that this was the highest point.

Discussion was had about Open Space Reforestation Project. Match is harder to get but it would be a valuable benefit. Trees would be planted along the Bitterroot trail from Franklin to the Fort. There were concerns if the roots would impact the trail and how the trail would be maintained. It would be maintained using root barriers and placement within larger areas along trail. There will be a diversity of species because of life spans. Taken into consideration was the proposal would max out the amount available from open space bond for the tree planting.

Morgan Valliant stated that these trees will be an addition to the trees currently being planted yearly. There are currently 200 planted a year and 300 being removed.

Gwen Jones noted how the Urban Forest is a crucial component on climate change.

Motion for first project; Improvements to Trailheads and Trails on Conservation Lands

Edward Monnig moved to approve \$250,000 for planning of Waterworks trailhead and trailhead improvements on conservation lands.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Rob Erikson moved to repeal the motion for \$250,000 for planning of Waterworks trailhead and trailhead improvements on conservation lands.

Erik Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Moved by: Edward Monnig

Motion to move to approve 300,000 for planning of Waterworks trailhead and trailhead improvements on conservation lands.

Seconded By DeAnna Bublitz

AYES: (10): Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, and John Smith

ABSENT: (2): David Cole, and Regan Whitworth

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

Moved by: Kristine Akland

Approve 2018 Open Space Bond funds in the amount of 225,000 for phase one of the Clark Fork River access.

Seconded By Charles Besancon

AYES: (10): Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, and John Smith

ABSENT: (2): David Cole, and Regan Whitworth

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

Moved by: DeAnna Bublitz

To approve project Tree Reforestation as shown in exhibits in the amount of 250,000.

Seconded By John Smith

AYES: (10): Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, and John Smith

ABSENT: (2): David Cole, and Regan Whitworth

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. Presentations/Discussions/Updates

4.1 Mount Dean Stone Site Visit

The official Mount Dean Stone Site Visit will be October 24th from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm. Meeting site will be at the bottom of Whitaker Drive and then we will drive together up to the site.

Unofficial Mount Dean Stone Site Visit will be on October 23rd 3:30 to 6:00 pm. Meeting site will be at the bottom of Whitaker Drive and then we will drive together up to the site.

5. Future or Held Items

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:00pm

Prepared By Jolanda Cummings