

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 13, 2020

4:00 PM

Currents

600 Cregg Lane

Missoula, MT 59802

Members present: Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Edward Monnig, John Smith, Regan Whitworth

Members absent: David Cole, Rob Erickson, Catherine Ipsen

Others present: Staff Present: Jolanda Cummings and Grant Carlton
Guest Present: Pelah Hoyt
Public Present: Kati Barreiros, Charles Weber, Jesse Conn, Kennedy Mrx, Lorraine Salcido, Hanna Kollbaum

1. Administrative Business

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of Minutes for November 14, 2019, January 6, 2020 and Subcommittee January 23, 2020

Correction to the November 14, 2019 minutes under 4.1 question 11 sentence two change "the city" to "Five Valleys Land Trust". Action Item 5.1 Remove paragraph one as it is a duplicate.

Correction to January 23, 2020 Subcommittee 3.2 second paragraph last sentence states "based on Open Space", committee asked to add the word "Plan" after "Space".

Ed Monnig motioned to approve minutes for November 14, 2019, January 6, 2020 and Subcommittee January 23, 2020 with amendments.

Charles Besancon seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved with amendments.

2. Public/Guest Comments

No Comments

3. Announcements

Grant Carlton announced that the February 20th subcommittee meeting will need to be rescheduled. Grant will send out a doodle poll to reschedule the meeting. Subcommittee members asked to not schedule it on March 5th or 6th.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Update on Open Space Advisory Committee Project Evaluation Subcommittee

Grant discussed first meeting for the Project Evaluation Subcommittee and a brief overview of what was discussed. Gave timeline of when he would like to see the process finished.

4.2 Presentation Mount Dean Stone Corridor Project

Grant introduced Pelah from Five Valley Land Trust.

Pelah Hoyt gave presentation on Mount Dean Stone. The location of Mount Dean Stone was identified and the areas that would be included in the potential open space acquisition were highlighted. Mount Dean Stone Corridor map was provided to the committee which addressed areas within the corridor.

Charles Besancon- Do you see potential risk by putting a portion of the trail on The Nature Conservancy land?

Pelah Hoyt - No because we have the first option to purchase that part of the land. The trail could be rerouted on Five Valley's Land Trust land if needed.

Pelah Hoyt defined areas outlined in orange on map is what Five Valley's is proposing today and would sell to city. The trail usages will align with south hill spur trail system.

Open Space Advisory Committee members questioned how this proposal differs from what we discussed with when we went on field trip?

Pelah Hoyt informed members that Five Valleys Land Trust was able to secure two additional parcels that were not included in the original proposal.

Grant Carlton- The original was just an out-and-back corridor and didn't include the loop.

OSAC members inquired about bikers and if there is a way to educate. There were concerns about the speed biker's gain when coming down the trail. Pelah Hoyt informed the committee that the trail will be designed to help with this issue.

Grant Carlton- Morgan Valliant (City's Conservation Land Manager) has been a part of trails discussion and the trail will be built to city standard and specs.

Pelah Hoyt did address that the proposal does not address the parking challenges. There has been discussion with Morgan and it is presumed that parking will increase at the Sousa trailhead. Grant is trying to identify areas that could solve some parking issues.

Pelah Hoyt stated that the trail connections (House of sky trail and High, Wide, and Handsome) would be completed in 2021. The trail will be 8% grade and would be very accessible for individuals with all abilities.

Proposed budget was presented to OSAC. Trail donation doesn't included seeding, weed spraying and signs. The proposed request from the city would be \$925,000 split between 2018 Open Space Bond and the Open Space Estate Gift.

Grant Carlton - The anonymous estate gift of 1.14 million dollars is intended to purchase open space on the south hills. I am working with city employees to incorporate the appropriate amounts and determine if there are other projects/acquisitions in the South Hills that should be considered. The thought right now might be a 50/50 split.

The managers of Parks & Recreation are looking at priorities and what the respective percentages would be.

Kristine Akland would like to see the language of the estate gift and the intent.

OSAC members discussed the distribution of the funds and the intent of the estate gift. DeAnna Bublitz mentioned using estate gift money for conservation easements.

Members asked about wildlife friendly fencing and where the fences would be located. It would be wildlife friendly to meet requirements of FWP. There was discussion by the committee of landowners that live in the area. Signage will help establish the usage.

Grant Carlton informed the committee that the project will be evaluated using the current metrics and tools.

5. Action Items

No Comments

6. Future or Held Items

Grant Carlton gave an update on the Interlocal Agreement with the County related to 2018 Open Space Bond Fund expenditures by the City and the updates were conversed amongst members. Members also inquired about 2006 bond funds and if there was still money available.

At the next OSAC meeting members would like an update on 1505 E. Broadway Property.

7. Adjournment

Adjournment 5:50pm

Minutes completed by Jolanda Cummings