

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: September 10, 2020, 4:00 PM

Location: Schmidt Road Property
1077 Schmidt Road, Missoula, MT 59808

Members: Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Julie Gardner, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, Regan Whitworth

To request auxiliary aids or service to participate in this meeting, please contact Jolanda Cummings at 406-552-6238. Please provide at least 48 hours advanced notice or more, so we can make needed arrangements.

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OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 14, 2020

4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting: Live Stream and On Demand: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/webcasts>

Watch on Cable TV Channel 190

YouTube Live Stream and On Demand:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5fnfMPFGSk8Gwq6F5UoqGg>

Live call in phone numbers: 1 (253) 215-8782 1 (888) 475-4499 (landlines only) Meeting ID: 960 049 3694

Members present: Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, Charles Besancon, DeAnna Bublitz, David Cole, Rob Erickson, Julie Gardner, Alexis Gibson, Daniel Gundlach, Catherine Ipsen, Edward Monnig, Regan Whitworth

1. Administrative Business

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of Minutes

Edward Monnig moved to approve minutes as posted. DeAnna Bublitz second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public/Guest Comments

None

3. Announcements

No announcements

4. Discussion Items

Grant Carlton informed the committee that 4.1 and 4.2 should be combined as one item and 4.3 and 4.4 is another item that should be combined.

4.1 Schmidt Road - Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road

Grant Carlton welcomed Julie Gardner to the committee.

Grant Carlton presented a potential new project being referred to as the Schmidt Road. This will connect the Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road.

Edward Monnig- Would the 11,000 only buy the easement on the portion of the blue strip north of the Milwaukee road it wouldn't encumber anything south of the Milwaukee Rd?

Grant Carlton- I'm going to push to included the southern piece too as I don't see why there isn't any reason we shouldn't.

Catherine Ipsen- Why don't you just have a trail coming off on that along the Knife River property to get to Mullan?

Grant Carlton- At this point Knife River would have to grant that and I believe that is a active gravel site and there is some public safety issues there. Knife River probably would not be open to that because it is a on going operations. We want to keep the Milwaukee Trail as close to the Milwaukee Trail as we can.

Kristine Akland- What's the deal with the connection between, how are we going to connect to this property if we can't even go over the river? Is there going to be a bridge that is going to be built and what's the status on that?

Grant Carlton- We have received bids on the bridge construction. It's in process now and have received bid packets and we just need to select one. The plan is to have a commuter corridor wide bridge and trail system over the different channels of the river. The island will have a birding trail on it that will be open to pedestrians. It will be a natural preserve in the area with a commuter trail running through it.

Kristine Akland- Is the money to build a bridge coming out of the levy?

Grant Carlton- I believe so as far as I know it is not coming out of the Open Space bond. It could also come from Park District too.

Edward Monnig-Is the parcel just north of the corridor that we have been discussing in public ownership?

Grant Carlton- No nothing over here is in public ownership.

Charles- What is the big picture idea here? Are there other missing connections that are being missed?

Grant Carlton- Potentially the connection over the river channels to downtown is acquired, functional and operational right now. The subject property that we are talking about is on the market right now. More broadly I mentioned the Mullan master plan and the build grant that is essentially planning for development of this area here the airport to Mullan road all the way to Flynn and Mary Jane.

Reagan Whitworth- Near the bridge area is the a contingency plan for people who camp there?

Grant Carlton- I can't speak to the actual plan it's sort of in process right now it is part of every conversation we have with respect to that area. Major concern to public health and safety.

Kristine Akland- Historically where have the funds came from when city purchases specifically for the Milwaukee Trail.

Grant Carlton- Being so new I would have to assume it is from the previous bonds and probably park district. I think there are easements along portions of it as well. I can look into that, I don't have the best answer right now.

There was discussion about the bridge work and the design process out for bids.

4.2 Connector Project Introduction

4.3 Update on Open Space Advisory Committee Project

Grant gave update that he is been on working with Missoula County and their project evaluation process that relates to the open space bond and they are fairly consistent and have made progress. That process is a very hands on process and would like to hold off on virtual.

Discussion was had on ideas of how to hold in person meeting vs virtual meeting.

4.4 Evaluation Process Enhancement

4.5 Update on 1505 E. Broadway Project

Grant provided a update on 1505 E Broadway project is set to close on May 21, 2020.

5. Action Items

None

6. OSAC Board Member Q&A on Non-Agenda items

None

7. Future or Held Items

Committee members would like an update of the Knife River ponds.

Interlocal agreement with the County update for next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Adjournment at 4:48

Summer Update on Current Open Space Projects

Open Space Advisory Committee – September 10, 2020

1.) Dean Stone Corridor Project

The Dean Stone Corridor project is proceeding as envisioned at the onset of the public process. Trail construction on the Corridor property is nearing completion, and Five Valleys Land Trust is currently working with City personnel to ensure the trail meets City specs. The Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC) has been on site and has begun discussing management plan implications and will further discuss the project at its September meeting.

The acquisition component of the project is now ready for City Council review. The Council review process is slated to begin in mid-September, and if the acquisition is approved, an adopted Council resolution/approval is expected in mid to late October. City staff is currently working with Five Valleys to complete a thorough due diligence and legal review of the subject property. The objective is to complete the transfer of the property from Five Valleys to the City by the end of the calendar year. The Corridor will likely be open to public access beginning spring of 2021.

2.) Knife River Ponds Property Transfer

This project dates back to the early 2000's when JTL Group (the predecessor to Knife River), as a component of a 2002 contract with the City that also included work related to Fort Missoula Regional Park, agreed that it would transfer its "ponds" property to the City for use as parkland upon reclamation of its gravel mining footprint. The reclamation requirements were met and approved by DEQ in 2016.

The City has recently been working with Knife River to complete the transfer of the property. Due diligence tasks have been completed by City staff. The primary challenge to City ownership at this time is a lack of public access to the property. The City is not comfortable taking ownership of the property (and, thus, incurring management related expenses) without reasonable assurances that public access to the property will be secured in the near future. City staff has had successful on-going discussions with University of Montana (UM) staff who feel confident that UM can provide public access to the ponds property across its adjacent land holdings. Once the City receives confirmation that access across UM property is likely, we will proceed with the transfer, which will require City Council approval. The City is hopeful that the transfer will occur by the end of the calendar year.

Schmidt Road Public Access Easement Project - Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road Connector

Landowner and Agency Identification:

Landowner: Delbert Fox

Sponsoring Organization: City of Missoula

Figure 1: Overview map of Schmidt Road property

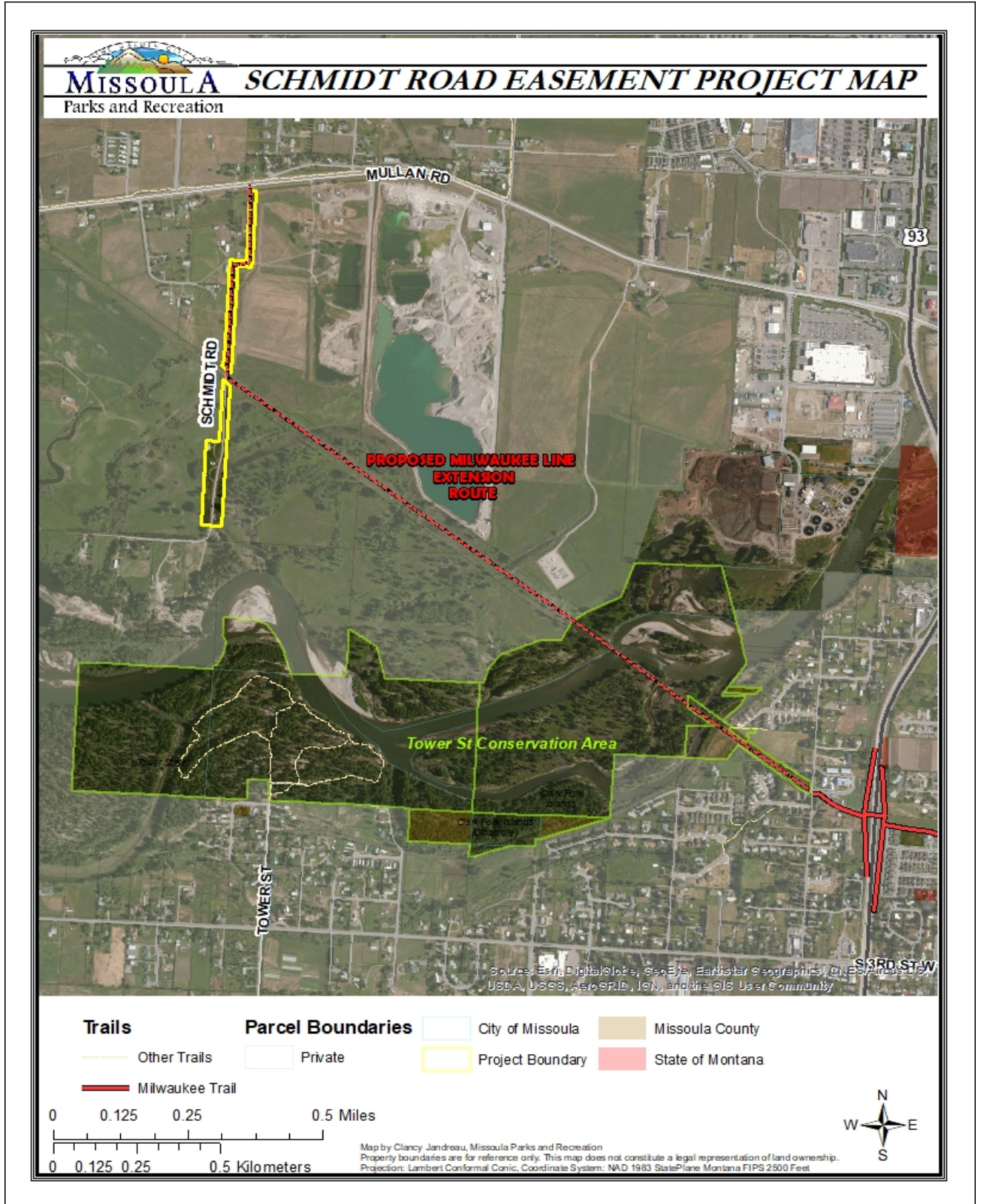
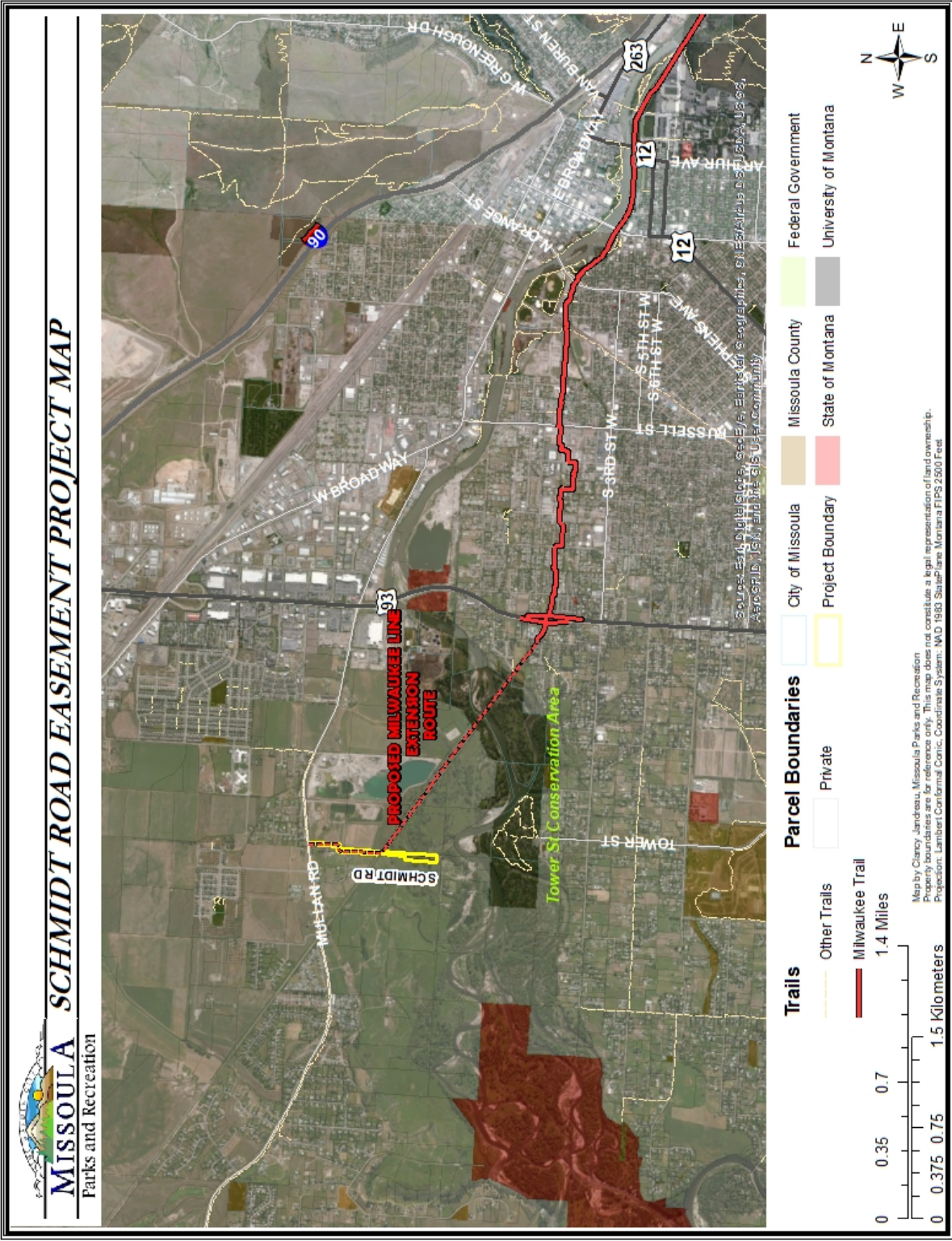


Figure 2: Context map of Schmidt Road property



1. Site Description

a) Size and location of the property

The Schmidt Road parcel consists of approximately 8.5 acres of land owned by Delbert Fox. The property is bisected by an unimproved section of the Milwaukee Trail and extends to Mullan Road west of Reserve Street and north of the Clark Fork River.

b) Open space proposal for the property

The City desires to purchase a perpetual public access easement across the Schmidt Road property that will connect the Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road. The ultimate vision entails development and construction of a shared use path in line with City specs.

2. Public Access/Non-Motorized Trails

The Schmidt Road parcel provides a critical connection that will allow future trail users to travel from the Milwaukee Trail corridor to Mullan Road. The developed portion of the Milwaukee Trail is a vital and highly used non-motorized transportation and recreation shared use path in Missoula. It currently provides an artery that extends from downtown Missoula to the Clark Fork River near Reserve Street. As Missoula, and especially the Mullan area, grows, it is becoming increasingly important to provide non-motorized transportation infrastructure and recreational opportunities that connect Missoula's urban center to growing neighborhoods outside the urban center.

The City has prioritized completing a shared use path along the Milwaukee Trail and has several on-going projects on various parcels along the corridor, including plans for the construction of a bridge over the Clark Fork River to the east of the Schmidt Road parcel. There is also a national Rails-to-Trails effort to re-establish connectivity along the old Milwaukee Road. There is currently a planning effort in process for the Mullan area (Mullan Area Master Plan) and significant growth and development is planned for the area.

Table 1: Easement Acquisition Budget

2006 Open Space Bond Request	
Public Access Easement Acquisition	\$15,000
Transaction Costs*	\$10,000
Total	\$25,000

*Transaction costs are estimated at this time, but are not expected to exceed \$10,000.