

## **Missoula City Council Parks and Conservation Committee Minutes**

**September 25, 2019**

**8:35 AM**

**City Council Chambers**

**140 W. Pine Street, Missoula , MT**

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson, Michelle Cares, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Julie Armstrong, Mirtha Becerra

**Others present:** Donna Gaukler, Corena Maurer, Morgan Valliant, Grant Carlton, Laval Means, Dennis Bowman

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes from September 18, 2019**

The minutes were approved as posted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Resolution to adopt the 2019 Open Space Plan, an issue plan of the Growth Policy**

Ms. Gaukler introduced Grant Carlton, a new Parks & Recreation employee in Open Space Acquisitions.

Ms. Gaukler gave some background on the Open Space Plan and Growth Policy.

Ms. Gaukler reviewed public input, importance, goals and area for the Open Space Plan.

Ms. Gaukler discussed the plan highlights.

Ms. Gaukler reviewed the public process that happened for the plan.

The Growth Policy goals were presented by Ms. Gaukler.

Ms. Harp asked for more detail about equity in the plan highlights.

Ms. Harp asked how many acres have been bought for open space land that could have been used for development.

Ms. Merritt asked about the Rattlesnake Lakes and how open space bond money might be spent regarding them.

Ms. Jones stated there is much discussion about the Lakes.

Ms. Merritt states that she would like to push back on the idea that the right thing to do is to remove the Rattlesnake Lakes.

Mr. von Lossberg asked about the date for the public hearing.

Ms. Means discussed the dates for the Downtown Master Plan.

**Moved by:** Stacie Anderson

Set a joint public hearing with the City Council and Missoula County Commissioners for October 21, 2019, to consider a resolution of intent to adopt the 2019 Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan as an Issue plan of the 2035 Missoula City Growth Policy

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Michelle Cares, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Julie Armstrong, and Mirtha Becerra

**Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)**

### **3.2 Update MMC 12.56 Open Space Conservation Ordinance**

Ms. Gaukler discussed the background of the Open Space Conservation Ordinance.

Ms. Gaukler discussed each change and addition that is proposed to the Open Space Conservation Ordinance.

The Open Space Conservation Ordinance will be updated every time a bond is passed.

Ms. Merritt asked for clarification on the changes to the majority vote and why there is difficulty in attaining it the way the Ordinance is currently written.

Mr. DiBari asked to make it more explicit that the committee will review acquisitions.

Mr. DiBari asked what the Missoula County Planning Authority is. Mr. DiBari requested that we state what exactly this agency is.

Ms. Merritt asked why 3 members were appointed by the Mayor.

Mr. von Lossberg stated the Mayor is able to do more targeted recruitment for the committee.

Mr. DiBari asked if we need to be more precise with our language.

Ms. Harp asked when we started using cash in lieu and park impact fees.

**Moved by:** Heather Harp

Set a public hearing for Monday, October 21, 2019 for consideration of updates to and adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 12.56 entitled "Open Space".

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Michelle Cares, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Julie Armstrong, and Mirtha Becerra

**Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)**

**3.3 2018 Open Space Bond Presentation and Discussion – Initial Capital Projects**

Mr. Valliant discussed open space bond spending parameter.

Mr. Valliant shared the results from the 2018 survey that determined what county residents wanted to see in their Open Space. The most popular answer was for natural areas and wildlife habitat. The majority supported improving and renewing existing space.

Mr. Valliant spoke about the Clark Fork River sustainable access and restoration project.

Mr. DiBari asked if the \$180,000 is for on the ground work.

Mr. Valliant presented an estimate for the project.

Ms. West asked about sediment presence in our water and how it relates to heavy use.

Ms. Harp asked about the specific boundaries of the project.

Ms. Harp asked if this project would have been feasible with Mountain Water.

Mr. Valliant discussed the Missoula Conservation Lands Trail head Improvement Project.

Mr. Valliant presented the Open Space Reforestation Project.

Ms. Merritt asked for a list of the specific areas of the project.

Mr. Valliant spoke about our need for updated, accurate maps of city trails and trail heads.

Ms. Jones asked if the Waterworks trail will be wheelchair accessible.

Ms. West asked what the blue boxes were on the map. Mr. Valliant identified them as possible future site additions.

NA

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.

Submitted by: Corena Maurer

City of Missoula Parks & Recreation

Administrative Assistant