

## **COPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**September 12, 2019**

**4:00 PM**

**Currents**

**600 Cregg Lane**

**Missoula, MT 59802**

**Members present:** Eric Anderson, Kristine Akland, DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Catherine Ipsen, John Smith, Regan Whitworth

**Members absent:** Charles Besancon, David Cole, Daniel Gundlach, Edward Monnig

### **1. Administrative Business**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

Staff Present: Morgan Valliant, Donna Gaukler, Marie Anderson, Grant Carlson, Cassy Gladwin, Jolanda Cummings.

Guest Present: included Dwight Easton, Gwen Jones, Pelah Hoyt, Greg Tollefson

#### **1.2 Approval of Minutes**

Approval of August 29, 2019 Minutes

Kristine Akland motioned to approve minutes.

John Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

#### **1.3 Announcements**

Introduction of Open Space Program Manager

Donna introduced the new Open Space Manager Grant Carlton and Gwen Jones from City Council.

#### **1.4 Public/Guest Comments**

Dwight Easton Public Affairs Director with Missoula Organization of Realtors introduced himself to the committee.

### **2. Action Items**

None

### **3. Presentations/Discussions/Updates**

#### **3.1 Review Updates to Open Space Ordinance**

Donna Gaukler presented the updated draft MMC 12.56.010 The Missoula Open Space Ordinances that highlighted the edits that were made since the August 29, 2019 meeting. The following areas were reviewed;

1. 12.56.015 displayed changes to definitions of Open Space, Open Space Plans and Conservation Bond Fund.
2. 12.56.070 Citizen Advisory Committee on Open Space changed wording to propose that the City Council will appoint seven members and the Mayor will appoint the remaining three. Donna Gaukler explained why City Council likes the Mayor to have a role in appointing members to committees.
3. 12.56.080 Committee's review of Open Space Proposals. Discussion was had to update title and include the language "improvements and enhancements" and to eliminate section D.
4. 12.56.110 Donna Gaukler explained the content change for conversion or diversion of open space land and clarified to the committee the reason for a contract change. Donna provided an example of how a item would be applied to the ordinance.
5. 12.56.020 Kristine Akland purposed to include the MCA Citation to section A.
6. 12.56.050 Rob Erickson purposed to change disbursements to acquisitions and improvements.

### **3.2 Open Space Plan to Planning Board**

Donna Gaukler informed committee that Open Space Plan will go to Planning Board September 17, 2019.

### **3.3 Open Space Capital Projects (Undertakings)**

Review Process Continued

Morgan Valliant presented the 2018 Open Space Bond City-County Interlocal Agreement and Undertakings. The Initial undertakings were reviewed and reiterated that the department is proposing to move forward with the initial undertakings. These undertakings will come to OSAC in October for final advisory approval.

Morgan discussed the purpose of the Bond and how it ties in with the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails report (PROST). The PROST survey reported the top five desired improvements and will be used to develop plans

Figures from the City "Undertakings" were reviewed. Resolution 8276 adopted by City Council June 25, 2018 detail each category. Categories for projected expenses included Acquisitions and Capital Projects;. Clark River Restoration Access, Trails, Reforestation of Open Space Lands and Conservation Lands Trails and Trailheads.

Rob Erickson- Are these categories are nonbinding?

Donna Gaukler- Agree that these nonbinding

Morgan Valliant provided information on Clark Fork River Sustainable Access and Restoration project. Discussion followed on the budget for the Clark Fork River project. Further discussion took place regarding the process to approve initial projects, initial

spending of projects and the course for further development. Committee members asked the department to consider presenting projects in presented in alternative ways so that the public can better understand the budget, costs associated with engineering, the prospects of matches ,and the overall cost benefits.

Gwen Jones - City council often authorizes initial expenses for projects. It's common practice to gather more information and to be able to give information to OSAC to make a full recommendation to city council.

Rob Erickson- Communicated with the committee that in general OSAC must decide if they find value in a project or not.

Eric Anderson noted the importance of discussing how planning of a project fits into Open Space Bond money.

Gwen Jones- This is a well-positioned project to get leverage and the committee needs to consider the leveraging of the money when deciding this project.

Morgan Valliant presented Reforestation of Open Space Capital project and the potential areas that the trees would be planted. Marie Anderson communicated the importance of the Urban Forest and the areas in Missoula that are declining. Costs associated would depend on the bids and type of trees.

Morgan Valliant presented projects for the Missoula Conservation Lands Trailhead improvement Improvements include upgrades to primary and secondary access points. Costs associated with these upgrades were discussed. Enhancements to the trails, parking lots and signs provide history about land and the donors.

### **3.3.1 Special Meetings**

Discuss preferred times for site visit/ work sessions.

Donna Gaukler stated that additional meetings may need to be scheduled for project review. No meetings are scheduled at this time.

### **3.4 Open Space Criteria**

Time pending- did not discuss item.

## **4. Future or Held Items**

Five Valleys Land Trust has a potential project that could be eligible for bond funding. A field trip will be scheduled for a site visit.

## **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:08.