

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 11, 2016

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present: Eric Anderson, Bert Lindler, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Janet Krivacek, Ethel MacDonald, Deke Tidwell, Kevin Verlanic

Absent: Gerhard Knudsen, Anna Noson, Regan Whitworth, Daniel Spencer

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Paula Fisher

Public: Jim Habeck

Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from January 14, 2016. Bert (Chaired) moved to approve minutes, Ethel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: none

Introductions:

Welcome new members Eric Anderson and Alexis Gibson

Update on current and upcoming projects:

Increasing City density and development is always a consideration in evaluating where neighborhoods are underserved and or land is available for possible acquisition.

Some of the program goals over the next few years include:

Extend the Milwaukee trail to the east and the west, continue to make other trail connections within the City. The Milwaukee trail west currently ends at Grove Street.

Kim Williams – connect trail on the east to the Deer Creek property with the solar panels. So far looks like we'll get our preferred route. Eventually tie the trail to the Mill Town State Park.

A priority is to obtain acquisition of land to continue the trail system.

- 2006 Bond allows for acquisition of land for trails but it cannot be used for trail construction.

The South Hills are an area where the open space program is currently focusing efforts, to potentially connect a non-motorized trail from Pattee Canyon to Hillview Way and Moose Can Gully.

Five Valleys has been proactive in acquiring various parcels of land in the South Hills and Mt Dean Stone area, including land adjacent to the Barmeyer property.

Barmeyer Trail – the formal trail will be established from an old trail-bed already in existence

Northside Connections

- Old Fox theater site – site of new convention center development proposed.
- The new UofM Technology building will put in a trail though not consistent with the City/County trails.

Conservation Land: Morgan currently has over 4000 acres of Conservation Lands.

Franklin to the Fort:

- US Northern Regional Field Services land – possible site if parcel is ever up for sale.
- Neighborhood property – possible parcel to be determined.

Brainstorming Considerations:

- Land opportunities that arise must be taken seriously.
- When should we start a serious discussion on asking for new bond?
- Conduct a poll of the public to determine their views on requesting more money for Open Space/Trails.
- Timing is important when requesting money as there are major financial demands on the City to consider: School Bond, Library Bond, MTN Water.
- Marketing - how will we promote our accomplishments?

Future Brainstorm Ideas for land acquisition.

Marshall MTN property – Five Valleys owns upper middle area, US Forest Service owns the upper T-bar area. The lower area is for sale. Marshall could be ideal for mountain biking – close to Missoula and take the pressure off other areas.