

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 12, 2016
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present: Eric Anderson, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Gerhard Knudsen, Bert Lindler, Janet Krivacek, Ethel MacDonald, Daniel Spencer, Regan Whitworth,

Absent: Anna Noson, Deke Tidwell, Kevin Verlanic,

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Paula Fisher

Public: Pelah Hoyt (Five Valleys Land Trust), Two visiting Fellows from the Mansfield Center - Vietnam and Laos.

Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from April, 2016. Bert moved to approve minutes, Dan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: none

The Barmeyer conservation easements and City acquisition closed in May!

Meetings for the summer – we need a quorum

May – South Spur property – rough cut

June – Concurrent process with City and County open space committees for 545 acre agricultural conservation easement rough cut; South Hills Spur field trip

July – 75 acre agricultural conservation easement rough cut

Aug – Final Evaluation South Hills Spur

September – Final Evaluation 545 Acre conservation easement

Budgets – for land acquisition

South Hills – Asking \$565,000.00

545 acre agricultural conservation easement Grass Valley (split between City & County) - \$250,000 request from City open space bond

75 acre agricultural conservation easement - \$125,000.00 request from City open space bond

Kolendich – currently being appraised.

Current balance in City's portion of the 2006 Open Space Bond is approximately 1.7 million.
\$345,000 remaining in 1995 open space bond.

South Hills Spur - 83 acres, knoll very visible – key property for connections within the open space system. Links up with trail and access to wildlife habitat. The proposal is for City acquisition to eventually include in conservation lands.

- Five Valleys purchased land from multiple property owners who had intended to develop the land into a subdivision.
- The Five Valleys acquisition included a public access easement from the Mansion Heights neighborhood.
- Access from Barmeyer property.
- Existing unpaved road has provided vehicular access to the knoll, but will soon be gated to prevent continued trespass.

- City acquisition of the property would help balance open space in the South Hills.
- Why did the developer not develop the property? – Expensive from the owner.
 - Five Valleys spent a long time negotiating the purchase of the properties.
 - Property was approved for subdivision but no structures were built.

South Hills

- 565,000 for fee acquisition of property, proposed for City ownership
- Access Pattee Canyon from South Hills
- Knoll – High scenery point in South Hills, see whole valley
- Flight path for migrating birds heading toward Clark Fork River Important Bird Area west of Missoula.
- Elk and other wildlife use the property.
- Variety of habitat, forest usage, grasslands
- Five Valleys received grant funding to allow for forest health cleanup.

Possible Place Names

- Sunset Knoll
- South Hills Connection
- South Hills Extension

Soft Opening

- The property will not be formally opened to the public until a trail plan is established.
- South Hills Spur property will be included with the Barmeyer property in a comprehensive trail plan.
- Tentative timeline - Winter of 2017 create trail plan and open to public use summer 2017.
- Property has a well and a buried utility line for power.

Rough Cut – Fill out sheets

The project received an average of 7.78 yes votes, with a minimum of at least an average of 5 yes votes required to proceed. The committee approved the rough cut analysis of the project.