

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

October 11, 2018
4:00pm – 6:00 pm
Meet at 600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801

Minutes

Present: Kristine Akland, Eric Anderson, DeAnna Bublitz, David Cole, Robert Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Catherine Ipsen, Regan Whitworth, Anna Noson, Deke Tidwell

Absent: Bert Lindler, John Smith

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Cassy Gladwin

Action Items:

- Approve minutes from September 13, 2018
Eric Anderson moved to approve the minutes; David Cole seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
- Nominate and vote on Chair and Vice Chair positions
Regan Whitworth moved to nominate Robert Erickson for Chair. DeAnna Bublitz moved to nominate Anna Noson for Vice Chair. The committee voted unanimously to approve both nominations.

Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda

- None

Discussion Items:

- Ryan Chapin, Stewardship Director of Five Valleys Land Trust presented Five Valleys' role in monitoring conservation easements. Ryan began his presentation by providing an overview of protection statistics from 1972, and total number of acres protected since the 2006 City of Missoula/ Missoula County Open Space Bond. Ryan discussed the main areas of stewardship; conservation easements and monitoring, and land ownership.

Ryan outlined conservation easement and monitoring. Easements allow the land to still be used, but follow the land if/when it is passed on or sold. Elizabeth Erickson shared that each conservation easements is unique to the land and landowner. Funding sources, boundary line matters and concerns that could arise after a project closes were also discussed.

Ryan then presented on land ownership and highlighted the Rock Creek Confluence Area. Five Valleys purchased this land in 2012 and focused its efforts on developing public access, ecological restoration, and facilities improvement. Deke Tidwell asked what the rationale was behind Five Valleys buying the property. Ryan stated that their organization was the most suitable owner at the time.

Ryan also highlighted the Lincoln Community River Park in Lincoln, MT. After collaborating with partners, Five Valleys purchased 9.5 acres to develop the land into a community park. The park provided access to the Blackfoot River and is maintained by the local community.

Ryan also presented information on Five Valleys' "Hand on the Land Program." This program works with members of the community by improving existing properties with easements in place.

David Cole asked how much the cost is outside of perpetual monitoring – how much cost is there comparing acquisitions and maintenance. Ryan stated the largest cost is to own the land. Five Valleys is creative in how they steward the land and employ volunteers and organizations to help.

- **Tower Street Conservation Area Update**

Elizabeth Erickson provided background information on the land acquired using 2006 Open Space Bond funding for the acquisition of Tower Street Conservation Area. When the City originally purchased that land, there was an existing power line easement and transmission line corridor. Three power lines in the current easement location experienced significant damage from recent flooding. NorthWestern Energy approached the department with an easement request to improve existing location or relocate to the lines to a safer, secure location. Moran Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager and Elizabeth are working with NorthWestern Energy to relocate the corridor. The easement would allow access to the existing road, restore the old corridor, and revegetate affected areas. CLAC and Park Board have already approved the draft easement. The easement will be presented to Council for consideration the week of October 22, 2018.

Future items

- None

Adjournment 5:20pm

Submitted by:

Cassy Gladwin
Recreation Accounting Technician
Parks & Recreation