

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

November 12th, 2009
4:00 – 5:30 pm

Present: Tim Aldrich
Bob Clark
Karen Knudsen
Jed Little
Maureen Hartman
Jeff Stevens
Gary Knudsen
Adam Liljebblad
Ethel MacDonald

Absent:
Mary Manning
Peter Bugoni
Ginny Fay, Park Board Rep

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, Jim Berkey (TNC), & Doug Ardiana (Bonner School Superintendent)

Bonner Hill Property – Jim Berkey - TNC

Jim Berkey from The Nature Conservancy and Superintendent Doug Ardiana gave us a tour of the Bonner Hill property. The approximately 101 acre property is adjacent to the Bonner School grounds and has traditionally been used by school children and the East Missoula residents as an extended playground for hiking and sledding. It is an important part of the viewshed to the Milltown/Bonner area and Jim stated that he has heard nothing but positive support for its protection at numerous public meetings held for Milltown/Bonner area re-development.

The following photo shows the entire hill known as the B Hill from the playground:



Doug Ardiana showed OSAC members the MRL railroad spur that runs parallel and near to the western edge of the property within a 150' wide easement. The spur dead-ends just past the NW corner of the property and will no longer be used by MRL once the Clark Fork River remediation is complete. Bonner School has requested MRL to abandon the spur so that the rail will no longer be a barrier between the school yard and the Bonner Hill. The fencing in the photo was put up within the past couple years when the spur became active again for the remediation. The fencing cut off the route that many children would take to walk to school. Doug said it is the School's goal to acquire the property, abandon the spur, remove the fence, and restore the trail for the residents.



Bob asked about the dirt road that switchbacks up the hill. Doug said that no motorized use would be allowed except for maintenance. He also said that no hunting would be allowed. Public access for hiking would be allowed year-round.

The property's estimated value is \$140,000 and Jim has requested a \$25,000 contribution from the 2006 Open Space Bond funds. Jim has already submitted a request for \$115,000 of Natural Resource Damage Program funding which should be determined by January. We did not have time to do the Rough Cut Evaluation so that will be done at December's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 on Thursday, December 10th at Currents.