

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
October 14th, 2010
4:00 –5:30 pm

Present:

Jed Little
Jenny Tollefson
Bert Lindler
Jeff Stevens
Maureen Hartman

Tim Aldrich
Gary Knudsen
Adam Liljebblad
Beth Hahn, Park Brd Rep

Absent:

Mary Manning
Ethel MacDonald
Bob Clark

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, & Jim Habeck

Trail Updates – Dave Shaw

Milwaukee Trail – Russell to Reserve

- The City has purchased all of the trail easements needed to construct the trail. They were purchased for .40-.60 cents on the dollar (e.g. an easement appraised at \$100,000 was purchased for \$40k)
- The construction design plans are now 80% complete and construction will begin in the Spring of 2011. The vast majority of the construction funds come from CTEP.
- The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) funded new sidewalks and a table-top crossing of Catlin Street – those improvements were installed this past summer.
- MRA will also be helping with most of the costs of installing the trail across the former Intermountain Lumber site between Russell & Catlin Streets.
- Phase I of the project will include construction of the whole trail, minimal landscaping, and lighting wherever the trail crosses roads. Phase II will include more lighting to be funded by MRA.
- A volunteer neighborhood safety patrol has already been formed to monitor the trail use and report any problems.

Bitterroot Branch Trail

- Parks met with MRL to request several pieces of trail easement to fill in the gaps along the BBT, the Kim Williams Trail, and a trail to make a better connection from the University bridge to Greenough Drive. We had some success with all 3 requests. In particular, MRL said it would work with Parks on the section of the BBT between South Ave and Livingston.
- Parks recently hired Territorial Landworks with funds obtained from MRA to design the trail between South Ave and Livingston.
- Once the design plans are complete, Parks will submit an application to MRL this winter in hopes of obtaining the easement in 2011. Construction could happen in 2011 pending funding from MRA.

Kim Williams

- Bandmann Flats Connection - This is another section of trail that Parks requested MRL to grant an easement in order to connect the end of the Kim Williams Trail to the existing 3 mile trail

around the Canyon River Golf Course. This would allow trail users to connect to Deer Creek Road.

- Parks hired TLI to prepare the design plans for this short section. Parks has already applied for and received the MDT Encroachment Permit needed to cross under MDT right-of-way for the I-90 bridge across the Clark Fork River.
- Once the design plans are complete, Parks will submit an application to MRL this winter in hopes of obtaining the easement in 2011. Construction could happen in 2011 pending funding from CTEP.

Grant Creek Trail

- All the trail easements have now been donated by the numerous property owners along the 3.3 mile route.
- The City portion of the trail, 2.3 miles, is slated to be constructed in 2012 using 2011 & 2012 CTEP allocated funds along with private fundraising matches.
- The County portion, 1 mile, may not be built until their CTEP funds become available for this project, which is scheduled for 2015.

RUX – the Rattlesnake to University Connection

- Rattlesnake residents have been working to obtain funding to make a safe bike/ped connection between the University bridge over the Clark Fork River and Greenough Drive. The route chosen is from the bridge, across Van Buren via an improved street crossing, then behind the restaurants and hotel along the north side of Broadway over to Greenough along MRL right-of-way. We will need an easement from MRL to use this route.
- Funding in the amount of \$625,000 has already been obtained for the project from Western Federal Lands.
- At this point, there is not a set construction schedule – either 2011 or 2012.

Jackie reminded everyone that the 2nd Thursday in November falls on a holiday and thus we need to hold our meeting on Wednesday November 10th instead of the 11th.

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