

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

March 16, 2011

9:05–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Ed Childers, and Lyn Hellegaard

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, Stacy Rye, Cynthia Wolken, Bob Jaffe

Others Present: Jackie Corday, Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of February 16 and February 23, 2011 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve an agreement between the City and Garden City Harvest (GCH) to allow for community gardens on City owned properties that will be identified in the future. ([memo](#))— Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10) (Item tabled in committee 12/08/2010)([Blank Agreement](#))

MOTION: The Committee recommends Council approve the [blank agreement](#) template to allow for community gardens on City owned properties that will be identified in the future.

This item originally was to approve an agreement between the City and Garden City Harvest (GCH). After discussion during committee meetings staff was asked to bring back a general template not specific to Garden City Harvest for approval.

Jackie Corday provided the committee with the general template to be used by any group requesting to use City owned property for a garden.

Marilyn – I advocated for a general template to allow other groups to be able to use the agreement. Jackie and I have reviewed the template and it is ready for a committee vote.

Each committee member present stated they agreed with the concept of a general template to be used by any group or agency making a request related to using city property for a garden.

Committee members also stated their appreciation of the efforts of GCH for being the catalyst to bring the issue to Council and thus giving a process for other groups to follow.

Donna – Currently the Parks Department is managing specialized or dedicated garden areas through the Partners in Parks program. None of these are vegetable gardens. It may be that Council would want neighborhood councils to go through the process of using this template for areas not dedicated as park land. The template refers to non conforming parks and scrap lands which include Right of Way. This template would be used by any City Department for these types of properties in the City.

Jon –I would agree and the template should be given to the neighborhood liaison to be used when approving grants for improving areas.

Donna – in the event that the Department gets a request for a garden in a developed park, there must be a master park plan in place first. This ensures a garden is put in the correct area.

It was moved to approve the general template with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Consider a new ordinance that will create a process and criteria for the naming of public

parke, trails, open space, and recreation facilities. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10) ([Citizen Letter](#)) (**HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

This item was referred earlier by Parks staff as directed by the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks Board asked staff to research what other cities have done for a process for naming public facilities. After the research was completed, Jackie Corday drafted an ordinance to be approved by Council. Even though the end result was in the form of an ordinance, Council can choose to not adopt the ordinance, but rather use a resolution or just allow the Park Board to adopt as part of their policy and procedures.

Jackie asked the committee what action they would like to take on the drafted ordinance. In any of the three choices, the final recommendation from the Park Board will be forwarded to Council for their final approval.

The committee members stated they were comfortable with the Parks Board adopting it as a policy, but did want the final name recommendation to come before Council for their approval.

In the end it was decided to change the ordinance to a resolution, have Council retain final authority and include the naming policy as Exhibit A. They felt passing a resolution would show their support for Park Board policy. Jackie said it would be important to retain for Park Board the ability to make minor edits to the draft so she will put that in the resolution.

Jackie will restructure the ordinance into a resolution and bring back to committee for a final review and vote next week.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD IN COMMITTEE

1. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
2. Annual tree planting program update. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Renee Mitchell) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
3. Reorganization of conservation lands advisory committees. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10)
4. Proposal to amend the development agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County High School District for Riverfront parcels of land. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Returned from Council floor: 02/28/2011)
5. Confirm the reappointment of Janet Sproull to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2014. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 03/14/11)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.