

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

June 10, 2009
09:0–9:30 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Ed Childers, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, and Stacy Rye

Members Absent: John Hendrickson, and Pam Walzer

Others Present: Ellen Buchan, Kari Nelson, Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of June 3, 2009 approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion of the Silver Park plans ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler)
(Referred to committee: 06/08/09) **INFORMATIONAL ITEM, REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Silver Park is a large centrally located area is going to be constructed at a site that includes several existing stands of native trees and shrubs. Marilyn Marler referred this item to the committee to discuss the development of the park to work with existing native plants as much as possible and incorporate into the landscaping limiting water consumption by limiting turf grass.

Kari Nelson went through proposed development of the park which was designed by Abbotswood Design Group. The proposed features of the park were designed to tie in the history of the park. There will be a plaza in the middle of park with a partially shaded pergola. The park will include items throughout using historical items left at the park. The three entry ways will be themed as well. Materials from the logging area will be used in the park development. There are several trails which connect to the Riverfront trail system.

Marilyn – the condition of park vegetation is not good with most of the understory covered with weeds. There are only a few places left to save native plants. Many of the trees left are not healthy but a few should be used in the landscaping of the new park.

Kari – the landscape plans will use native plants but the majority of the park is in turf grass to support passive recreation. The riverbank will not be disturbed. It may be possible to incorporate any identified plants and trees into the new park landscaping.

Ellen – due to cost and regulations the proposed water deck in the plaza has been excluded. The pergola will be timber frame construction like the shelters. Jennifer Anthony working on fund raising to do the large structure and use timber frame guild

Dave – it would be my preference to have more than less of the park devoted to native vegetations.

Ellen – the identified need in this part of town was for informal play fields which use turf.

Marilyn – it can be that way but some areas can be adjusted to limit the amount of turf. I would like to identify native trees and plant to be preserved.

Donna – the line of trees will be boulevard trees species as identified in the tree ordinance. This site and the soil are a mess and full of noxious weeds. Not all the trees are healthy. It is a big struggle to deal with the work product left there and to decide what types of grasses will grow. The Master Park Plan calls for the use of more native vegetation and to provide open spaces not dedicated to sports field. There are picnic shelters and sheltered benches along the river. The

design was to compliment McCormick Park and provide a transient from Clark Fork Natural Park to McCormick. The idea was to be more like the Clark Fork Natural Park but more useable.

Marilyn – buffer zones can reduce turf.

Stacey – thanks this is a great plan and the park will be a good addition to this part of town.

Dick – since the park is so close to the river is it possible to use river water for irrigation?

Donna – this is a water rights water issue and we do not have any water rights here.

Ellen – speaking to the timeline of the park, the plan is to put the parking lot out to bid to provide additional parking for the ball stadium and move ahead with trail construction. We will also put the entire park out to bid even though we don't have funding sources all in place yet. If the bids come in favorably we would go to the MRA Board and see what can be done as far as issuing bonds. It would be wise to build when most economical and that decision would come to Council.

No motion – informational item.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

A. Discuss the ownership, licensing and permitting for Brennan's Wave ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)

B. Approve construction contracts for Phase 1 of White Pine Park Construction ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 02/09/09)
(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)

C. A policy statement for enhanced forest practices ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler and Ben Schmidt) (Referred to committee: 02/23/09)

D. Goal setting with Greenhouse Gas and Energy Conservation Team ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)

E. Parkland acquisition in Franklin to the Fort neighborhood ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 06/08/09)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.