

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
February 14th, 2013
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:	Adam Liljeblad	Matt Barnes	Absent:
	Ethel MacDonald	Patrick Duffy	Gary Knudsen
	Mary Manning	Gabe Millar	Maureen Bookwalter
	Anna Noson	Tim Aldrich	Jenny Tollefson
	Dan Spencer	Beth Hahn, Park Brd Rep	

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, Jeff Stevens, Jed Little, Bert Lindler, Jim Habeck, and Dave Shaw, Parks & Trails Design Manager

Introduction of New Members and Farewells from Outgoing Members

New Members:

Anna Noson – She works at the Avian Science Center at the University of MT. She is especially knowledgeable in riparian systems and their importance for numerous bird species. She has worked on conservation planning in British Columbia and Northern Africa. She has 2 children and moved to Missoula 11 yrs ago due to its high quality of life.

Patrick Duffy – He recently retired as Clerk of Court of the US District Court in MT. He had 5 offices he managed across MT and he always felt that Missoula had the best community to live in, in large part due to its parks, trails and open spaces. In the past, he was also a professor of economics and served as an advisor for Congressman Pat Williams on public lands issues. He has lived in Missoula for 32 yrs.

Dan Spencer – He is an EVST Professor at the University of MT with a background in geology, theology, and a PhD in environmental ethics. He loves Missoula's drive to preserve open space and wants to be more actively involved in continuing to make that happen as he is concerned about the projected growth and the pressures that will bring on our existing conservation lands. Dan lives at the base of McCauley Butt.

Outgoing Members:

Bert Lindler – Bert has served on numerous committees over the years and he told members he loves OSAC the most. He encouraged both new and old members to look at each project with "300 yr glasses" – how will this project/land fit far into the future.

Jeff Stevens – He is a life-long resident of Missoula and offered these words of advice: Attendance is key so do your best to attend every meeting, contribute your enthusiasm and expertise, ask good questions, give constructive criticism, and always wear appropriate clothing for fieldtrips! (a reference to the fact that it often rains and is cold)

Jed Little – He handed out a map of the area west of Reserve Street and north of the Clark Fork River that indicated the important parcels needed to extend the Milwaukee Trail from Grove Street to Mullan Rd as well as parcels that could be great additions to the Tower Street Conservation Area that are part of the CF River riparian corridor. This was part of his work for the OSAC "Adopt a Quadrant" project. He advised members to keep in mind the next open space bond and how keeping a balance of open space around the greater area is important to maintaining voter support.

Public Comment:

Jim Habeck – He said that sometimes open space is thought of by the public as their playground and many areas are showing signs of negative impact from too much use. Members need to keep that in mind that we should "do no harm" to our conservation lands. The demands for recreation must be balanced with conservation values of preserving native habitats.

Dave Shaw, Parks & Trails Design Manager

Dave first went over the highlights of trail projects in 2012:

- 1) Milwaukee Trail lighting from Orange St overpass to California St. - The new beautiful lights were chosen based upon their high energy efficiency, dark skies compliance, and their tall stature and compact LED light bulb that is much less prone to vandalism than the existing big globe lights along the river trail.
- 2) Flynn Lane Trail to Hellgate School – We partnered with the County to install this trail for school kids along Flynn Lane – it connects up to the trail along Mullan Rd installed by County Public Works a few years ago.
- 3) RUX – the Rattlesnake to University connection trail will be open this spring. City PW was the lead agency with lots of in-put from Parks Dept and Friends of Missoula Parks members.
- 4) Grant Creek Trail – On Feb. 28th we will close on the purchase of the NWF parcel needed to complete the trail right-of-way acquisition. Territorial Landworks has already been hired to complete the design and permitting work, which will likely be completed in late summer/early fall. We will go out to bid for construction of the approximately 2 mile section within the City in mid to late fall and the trail will be built in 2014.

Dave then went over the list of trail projects for 2013:

- 1) Bitterroot Branch Trail – a small but crucial gap of the BBT will be filled this summer from South Ave to Livingston by Southgate Mall. MRL granted the license agreement for the trail to the City in December. Dave will request the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) in March to approve funding for construction.
- 2) Kim Williams connection to Canyon River - We will soon be submitting another trail license agreement request to MRL/BNSF for the section of land needed to connect the end of the Kim Williams Trail to the Canyon River Golf Course trail. We will also be asking to extend the trail north between I-90 and the RR tracks to connect up with Dave Edgell's property. That portion of the trail will not be built until we obtain a trail easement from Edgell.
- 3) More lighting on the Milwaukee – MRA has informed Parks that they are interested in continuing to extend the lighting on the Milwaukee Trail west – the section from California St to Catlin could happen this year or next year.
- 4) Missoula to Lolo Trail – Jackie informed members that she was part of a team that worked on submitting an application to Western Federal Lands for \$6.3 million in funds under the agency's Federal Lands Access Program to design and construct the Missoula to Lolo Trail from the end point of the BBT at McDonald to the south end of Lolo to connect to the Bitterroot Valley Trail. The application was submitted jointly on Feb. 8th by the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests, MDT, the City and the County. We will not hear back until late summer/early fall.

Beth asked if anyone is monitoring/counting trail use? Dave informed her about the biannual bike/ped counts done by OPG Transportation Dept. It happens in May and September and has helped show that the trails are used by thousands of people per day. Beth said this data will be helpful for the next bond.

Elections of Officers – Tim was unanimously elected as Chair and Adam was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

Contribution Matrix Amendments – The OSAC sub-committee members who worked on amending the Contribution Matrix (Ethel, Matt, Jeff, Bert) explained the changes made to help simplify and clarify how to evaluate projects. After much discussion, Beth suggested that we try both versions (original & amended) for the next open space project to see if there is any real difference between the two versions. Members unanimously voted to approve her suggestion.

We adjourned at about 6:00pm.