

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

June 11, 2009
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:

Tim Aldrich
Mary Manning
Karen Knudsen
Adam Liljebld
Jed Little
Ethel MacDonald
Ginny Fay, Park Board Rep
Peter Bugoni
Maureen Hartman
Gerhard Knudsen

Absent:

Bob Clark
Jeff Stevens

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr

The Nature Conservancy East Jumbo Proposal – Fieldtrip & Rough Cut

At the April OSAC meeting, Jim Berkey from The Nature Conservancy explained the basics about the Montana Legacy Project, which involves purchasing approximately 310,000 acres for \$490,000,000 from Plum Creek primarily in Missoula County. Jim requested OSAC to consider recommending purchase of ~216 acres located adjacent to the City's Mt Jumbo open space on the east side of the mountain in Marshall Canyon. The eastern Boundary would be Marshall Canyon Road. It is mostly steep timbered hillside with one gravel logging road. In April, Jim did not have an appraisal or a selling price ready for OSAC to consider.

Jim and Jackie met in late May to discuss the price. An initial rough estimate from TNC's appraiser indicated a value of approximately \$3,800/acre, or approximately \$800,000. Jackie asked TNC to consider selling for just under \$400,000. After a week, Jim followed up with Jackie to inform her that TNC was willing to sell it for \$400,000 with the City bearing the costs of sale. This information was needed to perform the Rough Cut analysis.

We noticed on the fieldtrip that the USFS had just sprayed for weeds along the entire roadside, including the spur that goes up to the City's blue gate on the eastern boundary of Mt. Jumbo open space. Members had many questions that needed further research, including the use of the logging road, MT Legacy requirements, pros and cons of acquiring the property etc.

Members unanimously approved the Rough Cut and thus voted to move forward with further researching purchasing the property. Adam Liljebld abstained from voting due to his current involvement supporting other conservation work on Montana Legacy project lands.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 4:00 – 5:30 on Thursday, July 9th at Currents.