

Date: 12/07/2015
Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting
4:00 to 6:00pm

Attended By: Terry Carlson, Carol Fischer, Kathleen Kennedy, Bert Lindler, Aaron Olson, Chris Ryan, Kevin Verlanic, Giles Thelen, Liz Bradley,

Absent: Beverly Dupree, John Pierce

Staff: Morgan Valliant

Public: Jim Hobeck, Kurt Krueger

Minutes – *Kevin V. approved the November minutes, Chris R. seconded. Motion passed unanimously*

Public Comments:

- ❖ Jim H. commented on how the vocabulary is confusing regarding defining public lands. What kinds of activities on public lands will the committee allow?
Morgan specifically invites Jim to the February meeting to join in on the discussion defining new open space acquisitions.

- ❖ Kurt Krueger – Bikers agreed to stay off the south side of Mount Jumbo for the last 15 years and would like to know if there are going to be any future accommodations for biker access. Indicated they have patiently been waiting for access. Morgan pointed out that there are currently set guidelines for existing trails, however review is needed for new trails. No one person or group can unilaterally change the use on a trail. Briefly described the extensive meetings, reviews and approval by Parks Board in order to create guidelines, all of which occurs over many months.

Annual Nomination:

CLAC Chair & Co-Chair positions are up for nomination. Giles Thelen is currently Chair and Bert Lindler is currently the Co-Chair. Carol moves to keep Giles as Chair position and Bert as Co-Chair, Chris seconds the motion, everyone agrees.

Review draft change of Use policy developed by a Missoula Parks & Rec. Board sub-committee and make recommendations to the Missoula Parks Board for policy adoption.

Action Item: Bert L. moves to approve a change of Use process, Chris R. Seconds the motion, all approve

- Develop recreation use plan based on research.

Discussion Items:

Barmeyer Property

After Barmeyer property lines were defined it was discovered that the survey was partially incorrect. The Barmeyer family came up with a solution of they would keep the trail along a downward slope from their house giving them a buffer and preserving a wildlife corridor. At the same time allowing for an area on the other side of the property for the City to have which is better for trail building and will better serve the public.

The City will get an easement to access for the Barmeyer driveway. The family will maintain the road.

Mount Jumbo

Elk started to move into the area late October. A cold snap occurred and the Elk flooded in.

- Last year \$4000 was put towards metal signs for closure.
- This year have included additional signs saying, "If you can read this turn back."
- Close down various trail heads for instance at the school. Try to get all traffic on Cherry Street.

- This year paper and metal signs – seasonal restrictions on dogs.
- There have been some public complaints on dog restrictions particularly in Woods Gulch which is Forest Service.

Elk Spotters: There are some reliable elk spotters still collecting data but many have moved on. More are needed.
Elk Press Release – this season we didn't receive any social media comments.

Trail Inventory and Research

It took two solid months to walk all trails and collect data.

Measured out-slope, grades and pruning.

Maps

- Pink - Map every designated trail in our system we manage
- Purple - Map non-system trails (human made, logging trails), eventually determine how many miles we need to manage.
- Overall pick and choose trails we need to incorporate and maintain or eliminate.

The trail evaluation will go through public meetings.

- Valley floor trails (Greenough belt footpath) have not been documented.
- Tower Street – there are more random trails than designated trails, it looks like a spaghetti bowl.
- Clouse Property – City is obtaining strip on top of the levee.
- Mount Sentinel – many trails on University Property – Can be a challenge to manage trails with a neighbor.
- 2008 we've gained eight miles of trail.
- Trying to get trail maps at trail heads.
- There are a lot less user made trails.
- Mileage signs posted seems to keep people on the trails.

Jumbo needs directional mileage signs. This will help keep hikers on a clear and continuous route.

Scoring System

- How does parcel fit in with larger conservation goals?
- Provide a system in order to determine how a parcel will be managed.
- Add Descriptors – redefine scoring sheet.
- Develop a checklist that includes more descriptions.

Morgan will develop a first draft to discuss in February – March.

- How much change do you want – need to compare.
- We don't want to add new management goals.
- New parcel needs data collected from the field.
- Multiple people collecting of data means more eyes and more opinions.
- Scoring Numbers doesn't meet all goals, there isn't a story behind the data.
- 1 to 5 scale correlates with other survey.
- Bullet points, important to understand what we're scoring. Ex: Mount Jumbo difficult – size range of pristine to degraded (weedy) areas.
- Highlighted areas needing management & work.

Syringa Park –

- Bike Skills Park