

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

September 9, 2009
09:05–10:00 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Ed Childers, Bob Jaffe, John Hendrickson, Stacy Rye, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, and Jason Wiener,

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier Jon Wilkins

Others Present: Ben Schmidt, Nancy Wells, Alex Stockman, Marty Rehbein, Jeff Stevens

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS – SEE HELD ITEMS

A. Approve minutes.

No minutes to approve.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. [Discussion Date: 09/09/09] Award bid for Tonkin Trail construction contract. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)

MOTION: The committee recommends the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Full Moon Trails, Inc, of Bonner, Montana in the amount of \$14,900 for the Tonkin trail project.

Marty Rehbein – this request is to award the contract for construction of the trail on the Tonkin easement in the South Hills. The fence contract was awarded several weeks ago. The funding sources are from a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks grant, and cash in lieu of parkland dedication funds.

Jeff Stevens – we solicited bids from three vendors and only one responded, Full Moon Trails in the amount of \$14,900. This company has successfully worked for the city and Forest Service.

There was no discussion and it was moved and approved unanimously to approve the contract with Full Moon Trails in the amount of \$14,900.00.

B. [Discussion Date: 09/09/09] A [resolution](#) the Missoula City Council approving the Missoula policy statement for forest practices and wood utilization 2009. ([Cons](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 07/27/2009)

MOTION: The committee recommends the City Council adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council approving the Missoula Policy statement for Forest Practices.

The Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation team had provided a revised resolution to the committee but it was returned for further discussion.

Jason – I have just sent you a revised resolution to review with some minor edits which address the format of the resolution. This does not address the issue of whether or not this resolution actually has any power to change anything.

The committee reviewed Jason revisions and it was moved to recommend approval of the resolution with those revisions. The revisions do not change any of the four policy statements in the resolution.

Jason - this resolution is very general and I don't see it having any effect on changing forest practices.

Ben – the committee after much work on this issue moved forward with the more general resolution and asks the Council to support the concept of changing forest practices knowing that the scope is much larger than presented in this resolution. The motion to approve the revised resolution carried unanimously.

IV. **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

A. [Discussion Date: 09/09/09] Support for City employee cash for Bus Commuters Program ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Nancy Wilson) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)(HELD IN COMMITTEE**)**

Missoula in Motion was asked to create a program to increase the awareness and participation in the Mountain Line bus pass program. The Cash for Commuters program encourages the drive alone commuters who would not otherwise try the bus to change their commute behavior in an effort to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. MIM is asking the city to support the program financially with a request of \$3200 to donate toward prizes. Commuters will receive cash prizes in the form of gift cards.

Alex Stockman – This is a partner program with the City and MIM and the Parking Commission all being asked to contribute to the budget. The Greenhouse Gas Conservation Team has recommended Council support the Cash for Commute program as part of the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy. Program details will need to be further defined.

Discussion:

Renee – I do not support the program as it would benefit city employees who already receive the benefit of a free bus pass. There should be further incentives made for the public who works in the city not those who work for the City.

There was discussion among the committee as to who should be responsible for funding and the sources. Mr. Childers pointed out the budget for fiscal year 2010 has just been set and this item was not included. He would like to have this request go through the normal budget process. Other committee members would like to see more of the budget coming from the Parking Commission as it would have a direct effect on parking down town. MIM was also asked to contribute the whole amount and report on the success of the program.

MIM was contacted by the Mayor's communication office and the Bike/Ped coordinator to set up this program. MIM does offer many programs and incentives with other Missoula Downtown members including the Way to Go and or free bus passes. This program would be a partner effort with the City to increase bus ridership and change commuting habits among city employees.

Due to time constraints it was decided to hold the item in committee and return to it later and invite the proposed partners of the program to a meeting for a discussion. MIM will also need to meet with Administration to get their support and bring back a more defined plan of action for the financing and implementation of the proposed program.

V. **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

VI. **HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler** **REMOVE THE FOLLOWING FROM HELD ITEMS PER COMMITTEE CHAIR**

A. 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)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.