

Greenough Park Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 14, 2009

Present: John Pierce, Susie Spindler, Barbara Stanley, Matthew Koehler, John Horrell, Kathleen Kennedy. Also present: Morgan Valliant, Jim Habeck, Andrew Orahoske. Excused: Cyndy Braun.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Public comment: Jim Habeck has taken photographs of the condition of Greenough Park and has given them to the Parks and Recreation Board. He is concerned about vandalized signs and lack of maintenance of the park. Andrew Orahoske is a member of the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group. He stressed that his group is willing to work with GPAC on projects. The group will sponsor a creek-wide cleanup effort on September 19 with a focus on cleaning up litter and dismantling rock dams.

Bridge Fund-Raiser: Morgan announced that the city council has approved \$20,000 in federal stimulus funds to be used for improvements in Greenough Park. The project has not received federal approval yet and may require U.S. Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval for work on replacing the bridge. Federal funding may allow us to expand the scope of the project to include replacing the bridge, preserving fish habitat, addressing habitat restoration, and promoting education. The project will not be done this season due to further evaluation to meet federal guidelines and advertising for bids on contracted labor. Barbara reported that \$2,074 has been collected in the Friends of Missoula Parks fund. John Pierce says that Runners Edge is still interested in sponsoring a run to raise funds to replace the bridge.

Brochure and stream access tour: John Pierce, Morgan Valliant, Cyndy Braun, Kathleen Kennedy and Barbara Stanley evaluated stream access points. Four sites were chosen for designation on the brochure map. Two sites on the east channel and two on the west side of the main channel were approved. It was agreed that it is unrealistic to close off both sides of the east channel by the site for bridge replacement. There was discussion of armoring the bank with boulders or large flat rocks to minimize erosion. Stream access could be closed with large maples twenty feet below the bridge. Ladd Knotek will be consulted. Additional maple trees can be felled to protect and discourage access to the extremely eroded area between the two channels. Areas with cut bank access can be blocked with vegetation. Access at the east channel bridge at the lower parking lot will neither be encouraged nor discouraged. Morgan said that Parks and Recreation is hiring a firm to design a city-wide Parks and Trails map and once this is done it should be possible to incorporate the trail map of Greenough Park into the brochure. Photographs of park features are still needed for the brochure.

There were comments about the importance of the Parks and Recreation Board getting an update about Greenough Park. John Pierce will contact Kathy Mehring and Dale Harris to be put on the agenda. Morgan is putting new signs at park entrances about dogs being leashed.

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Greenough Park picnic shelter. The annual hazard tree walk will be conducted and Ben Carson, the urban forester, will participate.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stanley, Secretary