

**For information only –already acted on  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**December 21, 2009**

**6:30–6:43 pm**

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present:** Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, John Hendrickson, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins and Jason Wiener, Stacy Rye

**Members Absent:** Bob Jaffe

**Others Present:** Dave Shaw, Marty Rehbein

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**A. Approve minutes.**

There were no minutes to approve.

**II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**A.** [Discussion Date 12/21/09] Authorize a professional services contract, including design through construction administration, for Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path- Missoula Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE8199(66) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 12/14/09) ([revised agreement](#))

**MOTION: The Committee recommends the council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with WGM Group, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$176,900 for professional services, including design through construction administration, for Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path- Missoula Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE8199(66)**

Dave Shaw, Parks & Trails Design / Development Manager, stated the Milwaukee Road was a rail line that passed through the heart of Missoula for many years connecting a string of cities and towns from Chicago to Seattle. The entire rail bed was officially abandoned by the railroad in the 1970's and ownership of the old grade has been divided up between local public and private holders. Missoula currently owns a portion of the Milwaukee Road and uses it as a major part of its non-motorized transportation system. These portions are known as the Kim Williams Trail, the Ron McDonald Riverfront Trail south-side and the Milwaukee Trail. Presently, the trail ends at Russell Street and a short portion of the trail exists between Davis Street and Grove Street crossing under Reserve Street. The goal of this project is to close the gap between Russell Street and Reserve Street and open a public non-motorized corridor. Parks has recently completed acquisition of all the easements necessary to build this segment of trail and is now ready to move the project into design and construction.

This project has been in the CIP for multiple years and has secured funding from CTEP, the 1995 Open Space Bond and the 2006 Open Space Bond. This project is listed in a number of planning documents approved by the city including:

- the "Recommended Improvement Plan" in the 2004 Urban Transportation Plan Update;
- the Transportation Improvement Plan
- the 2001 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
- the Master Parks Plan
- the Open Space Plan
- the 2002 River Road/Emma Dickinson Infrastructure Plan (please see attached excerpts from the plan).

The River Road/Emma Dickinson neighborhood has nearly reached complete build-out before the non-motorized infrastructure was constructed which has made acquiring right of way for this project particularly difficult. Help from the neighborhood was a key part of the success in securing some easements. Based on major increases in construction costs and especially high increases in land values this project could cost two to three times what was originally anticipated. For this reason additional CTEP and Open Space funding has been secured to fund construction.

The Parks Department received eleven responses to a Request for Proposals and interviewed three of the vendors. WGM was selected by the interview team and worked with staff on a proposed contract for the project.

It was moved to recommend Council approve the agreement with WGM. There was no public comment. The motion was approved unanimously.

**V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler**

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

**B.** Consider an ordinance amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 8, entitled "Health and Safety," Chapter 8.28, entitled "Garbage and Rubbish" to provide for special management of garbage in specific areas within the City of Missoula where there is conflict with bears ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09)

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.