

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

March 23, 2011

9:30–10:30 am

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present:** Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, Ed Childers,

**Members Absent:** Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard

**Others Present:** Jackie Corday, Mayor Engen, Ben Carson, Kevin Slovarp, Todd Kelitz

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of March 16, 2011 were approved as submitted.

### II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

1. Consider a new ordinance that will create a process and criteria for the naming of public parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities. ([citizen letter](#)) ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10) ([Naming Policy](#))

**Motion:** The committee recommends Council adopt a [resolution](#) that empowers the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board to develop and adopt policy and criteria for the naming of public parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities and to recommend names to the City Council for final approval.

The item was held in committee from last week as it was decided to not approve an ordinance but rather approve a resolution that empowers the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board to develop and adopt policy and criteria for the naming of public parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities and to recommend names to the City Council for final approval.

Jackie Corday provided the committee with the resolution and Exhibit A which is the Park Naming Policy to be adopted by the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board. Jackie had incorporated the changes suggested by committee members last week.

There was no further discussion and it was moved to recommend adoption of the resolution including Exhibit A. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Approve and authorize an agreement with a contractor to be selected March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to perform the vegetation removal mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ben Carson) (Referred to committee: 03/21/11) ([bid tab](#))

**MOTION:** The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Able Tree Services in the amount of \$10,000 to perform the vegetation removal mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ben -The City is required to periodically remove all above ground vegetation larger than 4 inches in diameter from the Clark Fork River levee between Orange and Madison streets, and between California and Russell streets. This action is mandated by the U.W.S. Corps of Engineers to maintain the city's flood insurance. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks has issued a permit for the work to occur and is to be completed prior to high water this summer. The bids were opened and Able Tree Services was selected.

Discussion:

Bob – is there anything else we could do rather than removing the trees every few years, and is there any species or vegetation allowed on the levees?

Todd Kleitz (Flood Plain Administrator) since the levee was constructed by Corp it is a requirement to remove the larger vegetation no matter the species. In certain parts of the United States there is no vegetation allowed on the levee, however due to fish habitat there is exceptions allowed. Vegetation that would remain smaller than the 4 inch diameter would be allowable.

Ben – this has been part of the discussion and would be feasible in the future, but re-vegetation of the levee is not budgeted at this time or part of the permit. We would need to remove invasive species to eliminate re-growth, and re-vegetate with native shrubs.

Dave – I agree with Bob, this process wherein larger trees are removed is jolting to the public and a new plan which would include re-vegetation would be a better idea.

Kevin – the levee system is periodically audited by the Corp and we do an inspection of the levee system twice a year. Any vegetation which is deemed to be 4 inches or larger is tagged and the Parks Department is contacted to remove the trees.

Marilyn – would it be more cost effective to do the removal more periodically rather than a large amount every 6 years? A plan to do this more frequently and plant native shrubs, through the use of a volunteer groups or school project would be well received by the public.

Ben – the quantity of debris determines the price of removals. We will look towards a plan which involves re-planting that FWP, Flood Plain Administration and the Corp can agree on for the future. The goal is to do the work this year prior to high water.

Several committee members suggested doing a press release to include what will happen on the levee this year along with possible opportunities for partners to help with planting native plants this fall or next spring in order to generate a positive approach to the removal project.

It was moved to approve the contract with Able Tree Services in the amount of \$10,000 for the vegetation removal on the levee. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Confirm the reappointment of Janet Sproull to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2014. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 03/14/11)

**Motion: the Committee recommends Council confirm the reappointment of Janet Sproull to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term commencing May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2014**

The Mayor has recommended the reappointment of Janet Sproull to the Park Board for another term. Janet has served in prior years and is an excellent board member.

Without discussion it was moved to recommend the Mayor's appointment and all members voted in favor of the motion.

#### **IV. REGULAR AGENDA**

##### **HELD/REFERRED OR ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS –**

1. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
2. Annual tree planting program update. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Renee Mitchell) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
3. Reorganization of conservation lands advisory committees. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10)
4. Proposal to amend the development agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County High School District for Riverfront parcels of land. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Returned from Council floor: 02/28/2011)

#### **V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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