

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

August 24, 2011

9:55–10:25 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, Stacy Rye, Ed Childers, and Lyn Hellegaard

Members Absent: Marilyn Marler

Others Present: Dave Shaw, Bert Lindler, Jackie Corday

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of - [July 27, 2011](#), [August 3, 2011](#), [August 17, 2011](#) were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

[Discussion Date: 08/24/11] Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign amendments 3A and 3B to the agreement with WGM Group in a total amount not-to-exceed \$14,213 for professional services, including construction administration and additional design, for Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path- Missoula Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE8199(66). ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 08/22/11) (**REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

Motion: The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign amendments 3A and 3B to the agreement with WGM Group in a total amount not-to-exceed \$14,213 for professional services, including construction administration and additional design, for Project #PR11-09MT, Milwaukee Railroad Path- Missoula Russell to Reserve CTEP #STPE8199(66).

In February 2010, the City entered into an agreement for consultant services with WGM group for project design, environmental documentation and construction administration for the Milwaukee Trail Russell to Reserve project. The original contract was for \$176,900. Two prior amendments approved by council brought the contract total to \$186,554. These were to complete additional design work that resulted in overall savings and safety enhancement to the project. The two new amendments, 3A and 3B, would bring the contract to a not to exceed total of \$199,767. Amendment 3A is for a not to exceed amount of \$11,488 to compensate the engineer for remaining construction management services. The original project was scoped at 80 days but the bid package called for 140 calendar days for construction. The additional construction time is necessary due to the extensive scope of the project and to allow for sufficient time to complete work on the irrigation ditches in the spring.

Amendment 3B for Grant Street trailhead design is for additional design services for a trailhead and landscaped wayside. This amount is for a not to exceed of \$2,725. The actual construction of the wayside will be funded by donation from the Missoula Rotary.

It was moved to recommend approval of the two amendments. The vote was unanimous.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [Discussion Date: 08/24/11] Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the agreement with Territorial Landworks, Inc. (TLI) in an amount not to exceed \$16,544.72 for professional services, including engineering and surveying, for Project #PR 08-02 GCT, Grant Creek Trail, CTEP #STPE 8199(105). ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 08/22/11) (**HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

In May 2008 TLI was selected through an RFQ process to provide consultant services for easement documentation, project design and construction engineering for the Grant Creek Trail from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation property north to Snow Bowl Road. The initial contract was for \$81,000. There were two other amendments bringing the total to \$94,835.84 The agreement and amendments were funded through the Open Space Bond. In June 2011, the City was approved for CTEP funding that allows the expenditure of City CTEP funding for project design and construction engineering. The agreement today is for TLI to provide consultant services for project design and cost estimation for the portion of trail between Prospect Drive and

the National Wildlife Federation property (NWF). This amendment will bring the total to a not to exceed of \$111,280.56.

We are bringing this referral to you as an important next step in the Grant Creek Trail project. The purpose of this work is to allow TLI to generate more information on the engineering, financial and safety feasibility of routing the trail from the Prospect Drive bridge and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) property.

The original route planned for the trail passed through the Prospect Meadows HOA common area then through the NWF property. This route required a 150 foot bridge and several hundred feet of boardwalk to protect wetland and riparian resources which would be a significant cost to the project. Also, the previous owners who gifted the property to NWF raised concerns earlier this year about placing the trail on the NWF property and they have recently requested new cost-to-cure items that will further increase project costs. It is not certain we will be able to go forth with the original route.

Thus, we believe it is prudent to review the feasibility of an alternative route, which would be completely within the Grant Creek Road right-of-way from Prospect Drive north along the NWF property. This route bypasses the need for a bridge, boardwalk, and additional cost-to-cure items. Until recently, it was thought that a route in the right-of-way here would not be feasible. Grant Creek Road comes very close to the creek itself and will not accommodate a trail in some locations. New information from CTEP has confirmed that CTEP funding is eligible for road realignment if that is needed to make room for a non-motorized facility.

The work performed by TLI in this agreement amendment will give us the information we need to make final decisions on the best way to proceed with the trail project from this point forward. Parks, TLI, GCTA and the Mayor's Office all believe that this is the most responsible way to proceed based on the information we currently have on hand.

Parks and TLI will continue to work with the former property owners of the NWF parcel and with GCTA to determine the best route considering costs, safety and feasibility.

Discussion:

Stacy – how much and why the additional cost to cure items?

Dave explained the cost to cure items include conditions that the previous landowner who gifted the property to NWF with restrictive covenants requested in exchange for an easement. In this case the request is to replace or install new wildlife friendly fence along the entire property. The easement process is totally voluntary, so a landowner can request a condition as necessary if they grant a trail easement.

Jon – if the trail is placed in the Right of Way, is there a buffer between the trail and the road?

Dave – this will cause some constraints, as there is not a lot of room but it will be safe and it is important to have this connection to complete the project. The new agreement with TLI would provide us the information to make decisions about how to make the trail safe.

Bert Lindler – Grant Creek Trail Association, we want to see the trail constructed in 2012, and we are very supportive of looking at the alternate route. The triangle in the south east corner of the NWF property is the only possible bridge site. But if you don't have to build a new bridge crossing and use the existing Prospect Drive bridge there will be a cost savings and the route will work well for commuting.

It was decided to hold the item for further discussion.

2. [Discussion Date: 08/31/11] Award and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract for design, procurement and installation of park pavilion and concrete pad in Maloney Ranch Park Project 11-08MRP. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Alan White) (Referred to committee: 08/22/11)

HELD IN COMMITTEE

1. Update from Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 04/11/2011)

2. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/2011)
3. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with MRP for procurement and transfer of wood waste to support the Missoula Sawmill Site Wood Waste Reclamation Project, per the DNRC Wood Waste Grant awarded the City of Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Alan White) (Referred to committee: 06/27/2011)