

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 11/4/13

Time: 4-6pm

Place: Operations Conference Room @ 100 Hickory

Attended by voting members: Chris Ryan, John Pierce, Chris Ryan, Deborah Richie, Giles Thelen, Paul Parson, Beverly Dupree, Bert Lindler, Kathleen Kennedy, Kevin Verlanic, Morgan Valliant

Non-voting: Vivian Crowser

Others: Becky Goodrich, Parks & Recreation

No public attendance; no public comments

Action items

Minutes- Oct 7th, 2013-it was moved and seconded to approve minutes as submitted.

Updates/Discussion Items:

Forest Management Planning- Morgan advised that he has received \$130k Forest Health Grant for disease & insect management on Mt. Jumbo in forested areas along the backbone trail. More data is needed to know how this will affect the elk herd. Draft of thinning prescription needs to be address as preliminary treatments would start next fall.

This led into a discussion regarding the development of the citizen elk spotting science project, to be rolled out in three weeks. Becky Goodrich started the conversation by outlining what she does for press releases, department announcements via the city website along with other web based programs such as Facebook. She asked the group for their thoughts and input on what would work to get the community to participate in elk spotting activity. The following are ideas that the group discussed:

- Email
- Text
- Hotline
- Facebook or similar web based programs – Becky Goodrich

Also, there were limited concerns about public participation and how to get the best data possible:

- How would the public be able to respond in a topographical manner that would be beneficial to pinpointing observed herd activity?
- Would the public be able to distinguish an elk from a mule deer?

Potential partnerships were discussed:

- Natural History Museum
- Mountain Water (placement of an elk cam)
- Hunting GPS
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Alter Enterprises – Ryan Alter (Giles will approach)
- Natural History Center
- Five Valley Land Trust
- 10 Spoon Winery
- FWP-joint press release to create buy in

Discussion then turned to the Special Permit Pilot Project update. Morgan performed a pre and post event inspection for the Pengelly Double and Single Dip put on by Run Wild Missoula held this summer. This event did not have a parking plan or restrooms available as the event was held on University Property.

He reported that he spent 4 hours on each end of the race and determines it would be an 8-10 hour commitment per day, per event, at a cost of \$300 just for his time alone but the good news was that there did not appear to be any noticeable impact from the event.

Run Wild Missoula did not hold their Fall race.

Morgan asked the committee what their thoughts were in moving forward. Discussion was held regarding the fee structure, etc. along with deadlines mandated by US Forest Department which were fast closing in. Consensus was recommended delay of implementation of the Special use permit until pilot project can proceed. Chris Ryan will update Park board on this recommendation.

Closing discussion was held regarding the following

- December meeting (1st Monday, December 2nd)
- No January meeting
- Morgan encourage everyone to submit agenda items

Future Items

- Start preparation for February Council presentation