

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 3/3/14

Time: 4-6pm

Place: Headwaters room in Currents Aquatic Center

Attended by:

Kathleen Kennedy, Chris Ryan, Bert Linder, Giles Thelen, Vicki Edwards

Absent: Kevin Verlanic

Staff: Morgan Valliant, Elizabeth Erickson

Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda - none

Minutes – Approve notes of February 3, 2014 – Need to review attendance and adjust – also notes – will provide revisions next meeting.

Announcements:

Update on avalanche conditions on Mount Jumbo

Asking for volunteer evacuation –

Notification of Jumbo Closure: Staff put of signs and fencing and the trail to the L and US West trail were open - Trail use only – not open for skiing, etc.

Awareness now that the public is not educated as to the use of the trail only

As mountain sees more pressure and use – monitor issues as they come up

Kennedy – if closure in not enforced especially in this dire situation then there is no closure. We need to assert the closure especially since a life was lost.

As a subcommittee of park board, should check in with them.

Should there be some sort of avalanche discovery each year, probably need a process

Strong support for some strong enforcement of the closure and for improved enforcement

Kennedy – suggest getting the word out on closures to students by using the Kaiman

Valliant – we will also re-evaluate how the area is post and use bigger signs

The committee will write a referral to the Park Board regarding closing and enforcement issues.

Action Items - none

Updates/Discussion Items

1. Review options available to resolve encroachments into Greenough Park by Elizabeth Erickson
At first it was just a blanket statement but then the properties were re-evaluated with all owners paying \$87 as part of a market analysis to determine property value. The goal was to get options for encroachment easement which is true to the deed language.
Erickson handed out base template, which is tempered to specific offer per property owner. The criteria was based on MPP, Goals, Greenough Deed – (requirement per Deed that is the basis for the property, conservation, habitat value), these were weighed to determine if there was a benefit to the park to have revenue or land.

Page 2 has 3 options, the encroachment easement was not offered to everyone. The valuation was based on fair market value which for undeveloped land is \$15.72 a sq. foot. Letters went out last week, and have already heard from a few land owners who had sticker shock over the price. A meeting will be set up meeting with individual land owners.

All encroachments added up are less than 2 acres.

The payment option was given with a 20% down payment and a total to pay off in three years.

This allows the status to remain as is and not address until or if the property is sold in the future.

Owners were asked to remove and/or restore – and some of them just removed and restored without the letter.

Kennedy – any liability issues, trees, etc?

Erickson – would assess each property – easement would pass with the property. Permit has to be addressed upon sale of property.

2. Review draft of Forest Management Plan for Critical Elk Winter Range on Mt. Jumbo

Valliant handed out a draft for the committee to read. The background information was provided with help from Vicki Edwards. Need to have a procedure and time process to get the initial process established.

This will be presented in May to the Park Board for adoption. The Committee will review the draft chapters.

Future items

Review of recreational developments and access points along the Clark Fork River

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm