

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

November 3, 2010

9:05-10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard, Dave Strohmaier and Roy Houseman

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jackie Corday, Morgan Valliant, John Pierce

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of October 20, 2010 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

A. Consider amending an ordinance to allow bow hunting on certain lands. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10) ([Held in Committee](#))

MOTION: The committee recommends City Council set a public hearing on December 6, 2010 to consider an ordinance of the Missoula City Council amending Chapter 9.62 Missoula Municipal Code entitled “Discharging weapons” amending Sections 9.62.050 to allow bow hunting to be done on public or private land that has been approved by the landowner and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for a FWP managed bow hunting location.

When the City purchased the Tower Street property in 2001, residents requested that bow hunting be allowed to continue in the area. Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) agreed and the City and FWP annually review the proposed hunt. This property will soon be annexed into the city, and will make the area subject to the prohibition against discharging arrows under Chapter 9.62.050. In order to allow bow hunting to continue, the ordinance needs to be amended to allow an exception for hunts approved and managed by FWP. The language is flexible so that potentially other locations may be made available for bow hunting.

Jackie: The draft was reviewed by FWP and they still need to check with State law for any conflict. I will come back with this prior to the public hearing with any changes or recommendation from FWP or any concerns you may have.

It was moved and voted unanimously to set the public hearing on December 6, 2010.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS –

A. Greenough Park advisory committee update. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/18/10) ([Informational, Remove from Agenda](#))

Dave – this was a referral to hear from the Greenough Park Advisory Committee on management activity within the park, including but not limited to

- Norway Maple management
- Riparian restoration work
- Bridge replacement
- Trail work and signage
- Status of completing a property survey of the park

Parks Department Staff - Morgan Valliant, and John Pierce GPAC, Chair are here for the discussion today.

John Pierce – the removal of the Norway Maples has occurred since 1995, they had become the dominant species and the area was becoming a mono culture which limits wildlife as well as vegetation. The riparian restoration work continues. This year the Parks Department was able to fund replacing the foot bridge which was removed several years ago during high water, and the

work included reinforcement of the stream bank. The Parks crew also did some pruning along the trail to reduce vegetation overgrowth.

Dave – what have you heard from citizens and what was the level of communication to GPAC on any of the maintenance done by the Parks Department?

John – GPAC and Parks do an annual hazard tree walk, and one of cottonwood trees removed was identified last year. This was used as part of the diversion structure. The second tree removed was not earlier identified through the tree walk nor was GPAC informed of the maintenance along the trail. There have been some negative comments by the committee and public. However communication continues to improve between the committee and Parks staff.

The property survey has some areas which may need legal opinion from the City Attorney. When the park was originally gifted there was a property description but it is inaccurate. GPAC was formed due to a law suit in 1955 by the Greenough family against the City. There were 13 points established as a result and the first order was to have a survey done, however the status of the survey is uncertain at this point.

Nugent's response to the status of survey.

Mr. Nugent – it will cost a lot of money to do a survey and there is no money in the budget. Yes Parks has been told about the need for a survey but City Council will have to fund the process.

There was discussion as to the status of the survey done by the County Surveyor.

The final discussion centered on the continuance of GPAC given the adoption of the Conservation Lands Management Plan. Greenough Park is included in the plan as a public natural area but there was discussion on whether it should have its own master park plan and should GPAC continue as an advisory board?

Marilyn – when we went through the CLM plan process there was citizens' involvement and I think with the number of advisory committees in the Parks Department which results in less communication rather than more. I would suggest moving ahead with only having one advisory committee which would be a better use of Parks staff resources and should result in more community participation.

John – since the District Court order set up GPAC, this would have to be addressed legally.

Bill Burnett – new member of GPAC – I do not support dissolving GPAC into one committee. Greenough Park is a special and different case, more of a legacy park, lacks boundaries, had a different and long history, and basic problems that are rooted in the age and lack of attention to the park. GPAC is very interested in making it the historical park it was intended and are dedicated to its management.

Morgan – public involvement is helpful but there are other properties in the City which do not have citizen stewardship which would benefit from a committee. Morgan recently attended a conference in Idaho and gave a presentation on the Greenough restoration process. Morgan feels the work in Missoula may become a model for other cities in the region facing the same problem with the Norway Maple.

The other issue in Greenough concerning the committee is the impact of citizens on the bull trout habitat and spawning in Rattlesnake Creek and bike use on the trails. It was suggested to increase signage and/or public education.

Marilyn will make a referral regarding the citizen advisory committees.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

- A.** Update from the Greenhouse Gas Conservation Energy Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 09/13/10)
- B.** Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)

- C.** Consider a new ordinance that will create a process and criteria for the naming of public parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10)
- D.** Approve an agreement between the City and Garden City Harvest (GCH) to allow for community gardens on City owned properties that will be identified in the future. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 10/25/10)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.