

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 10, 2016

Present: Eric Anderson, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Gerhard Knudsen, Janet Krivacek, Bert Lindler, Ethel MacDonald, Daniel Spencer, Deke Tidwell, Regan Whitworth

Absent: Anna Noson, Kevin Verlanic

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Paula Fisher

Minutes – Motion to approve minutes – we will review October and November minutes in December.

Action Item: Evaluation of Johnson Street potential open space acquisition, a proposal to spend the remaining portion of the 1995 open space bond to acquire land for a developed park and trail connection for the Bitterroot Trail.

Montana Rail Link (MRL) Property – Located in the Franklin to the Fort neighborhood on Johnson Street, the Bitterroot Branch line, South Avenue and North Avenue.

Site visit - OSAC committee visited the MRL property.

- OSAC surveyed area for potential acquisition of property for a park.
- The remaining 1995 Open Space bond money, which can be used for developed parks, would be used to purchase the property.
- The MRL property is 4.5 acres which is just under the ideal of 5 acres for a park.
- The property would provide park land for the Franklin to the Fort neighborhood, which is currently underserved in terms of acreage of park per capita.
- MRL property would provide the missing link in the Bitterroot Trail.

Once the city enters into an agreement with the MRL there is a 90 day due diligence period, which will allow the City to complete Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments. MRA – applied for a brown field grant, which will help cover the cost of Phase I and Phase II assessments. So far no indication of any extreme contamination problems with the MRL land.

- The city will buy the entire 12 acre parcel; approximately 4.5 acres will go to develop a park.
- The City is buying the land at a bargain sale price.
- Development of the park will take a while, the trail will go in soon.
- The MRL land is located in the Missoula Redevelopment Agency's Urban Renewal district III.
 - This area is designated for more housing development.
- The bond money will be used for the acquisition of the property only.
 - Taxes from new housing will go towards developing the property.

The committee filled out the matrix criteria to determine if we should pursue an acquisition of the property for a park or not.

Motion:

The Open Space Advisory Committee will evaluate in a single meeting the proposal to expend up to \$390,000 - the remaining portion of the 1995 Open Space Bond - toward the purchase of the Johnson Street property for an approximately 4.5 acre neighborhood park and Bitterroot Trail connection. The evaluation will be the combination of an initial evaluation, site visit and final evaluation.

Motion:

The Open Space Advisory Committee recommends that City Council adopt a resolution to expend up to \$390,000, which will expend the remaining funds in the 1995 Open Space Bond, to support the City's acquisition of the Johnson Street property for an approximately 4.5 acre neighborhood park and Bitterroot Trail connection.

The committee members present voted unanimously to approve the above motions.

The following additional meetings will review the MRL acquisition proposal.

MEETINGS

November 16 – Parks and Conservation Committee

December 12 – City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposal