

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

January 10, 2019
4:00pm – 6:00 pm
Headwaters at Currents
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801

Minutes

Present: Eric Anderson, DeAnna Bublitz, Robert Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Catherine Ipsen, Regan Whitworth, John Smith, David Cole, Bert Lindler

Absent: Anna Noson, Deke Tidwell, Kristine Akland

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Cassy Gladwin

Action Items:

- Approve minutes from November 8, 2018 and December 17, 2018
Eric Anderson moved to approve both sets of minutes; Bert Lindler seconded the motion.
The committee voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes

Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda:

- None

Discussion Items:

- Update on open space planning process, timeline and cornerstone mapping

Open Space Planning Process Update

Elizabeth Erickson provided an update on the open space planning process, and highlighted a few of the first projects that have been identified as potential projects for funding from the 2018 open space bond. Projects included the Clark Fork River; focus on restoration, revegetation, and access points, Waterworks Hill Trailhead; install a new parking lot and construct an ADA compliant loop trail, and continuing partnership with Missoula Water and the adjacent landowner on the project.

Elizabeth provided information on funds remaining from the 2006 Open Space Bond. Elizabeth reviewed bond law with the committee and length of time funds are available. There is approximately \$600,000 remaining for projects through the end of 2019. Potential projects remaining funds could go to include; connection from Milwaukee Trail to Deer Creek, and North Hills trailhead project (open space system – connect to different systems).

Elizabeth also announced the recent staffing changes at in Missoula County Parks, Trails, and Open Lands. Juniper Davis has assumed Lisa Moisey's position as Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Program Manager, Kiley Paul has assumed Kali Becher's role as Natural Resource Specialist. Juniper and Kiley are continuing the work Lisa and Kali initiated with the Open Space

Timeline Update

Elizabeth Erickson presented the timeline for the Open Space Chapter review and adoption. A draft of the plan will be sent late January to OSAC members for review; comments due back by

or near February 14th 2019. A copy of the draft will be made available for public comment beginning March 2019. Final edits will take place April 2019 followed by adoption.

Cornerstone Mapping Update

Elizabeth presented an updated version of the 2006 open space cornerstone map, which highlights geographic priorities in Missoula valley. The updated map shows existing cornerstones, and areas proposed for expansion or inclusion. The map is based on a variety of GIS layers and resources.

Discussion took place on cornerstones identified in 1995 and those expanded in 2006. The committee discussed if the map itself is still useful as is only reflects areas already preserved. The committee questioned if the map could be used to represent missing niches, and connections too.

Elizabeth stated the cornerstone map is way to help prioritize open space projects. Historically proposed projects must have at least three values in GIS layers. The cornerstone map will serve as open space planning area the city and county. The updated version will be presented before February's OSAC meeting. Resources that informed the GIS layers will be detailed in each cornerstone.

The committee generally discussed the City and County's current processes for open space projects, current score sheet criteria, and applying points for projects highlighting connectivity. Discussion about updating score sheets took place. The number of score sheets currently ranges depending on the proposed project. Committee members would like to move away from this practice and toward one score sheet for all proposed projects.

- Bid farewell to outgoing OSAC members who are not reapplying
Elizabeth thanked members whose terms are expiring at the end of the month.

Future items

- None

Adjournment

5:30pm

Submitted by:

Cassy Gladwin
Recreation Accounting Technician
Parks & Recreation