

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

July 9th, 2009
4:00 – 5:30 pm

Present:

Tim Aldrich
Bob Clark
Karen Knudsen
Jeff Stevens
Jed Little
Ethel MacDonald
Ginny Fay, Park Board Rep via phone
Peter Bugoni
Gerhard Knudsen

Absent:

Mary Manning
Maureen Hartman
Adam Liljebblad

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr & Jim Habeck

Open Space Updates from Jackie:

North Hills

FVLT will soon be bringing a new project to OSAC for consideration in the North Hills - ~300 acres formerly owned by the Ryan family has been sold to Allied Waste. They are interested in selling a conservation easement to FVLT using City 2006 Open Space Bond funds.

Grant Creek

Jackie is working with Mike Mueller at RMEF to protect a crucial elk corridor on property owned by Joy Sherry. The North Hills elk herd heavily utilize the ~800 acre NWF property to the east of Grant Creek road and the Grant Creek Ranch across the road to the west, owned by Washington Corp. The 27 acre Sherry property is the vital link between the two sides of the valley. This project will likely not be brought through OSAC as Jackie has worked out a deal with the owners that will not need any bond funds for this project.

Target Range Agricultural Land

Mark Sommer with American Public Land Exchange (Bruce Bugbee's company) contacted via letter and phone the 4 property owners in the Target Range area that Jackie and Paul Hubbard with Community Food & Agricultural Coalition had identified as good candidates for protecting prime agricultural soils. Of the 4, only one owner was interested in talking with Mark about a conservation easement, Dale's Dairy. They have four 5-acre lots, 3 of which are in pasture and the other has all the buildings and a parking lot. Unfortunately, they would like to get close to the recent appraised fee simple value of \$150,000/acre for granting an easement on the 15 acres of pasture, about 2.25 million. Thus, that ends our foray into protecting ag land in the Target Range for the moment.

Spooner Creek Ranch - Miller Creek

The owners have asked Mike Mueller to go forward with requesting both City and County bond funds for purchasing a bargain sale conservation easement on their 207 acre ranch. Mike and Jackie are trying to set up a joint fieldtrip with the County Open Lands Advisory Committee.

Milwaukee & Grant Creek Trails

Dave Shaw has been overwhelmed with park development projects this Spring/Summer so Jackie is now helping to wrap up obtaining easements for these two trails. There are now only 6 trail easements needed from private property owners along the Milwaukee between Russell and Davis Streets. We have now closed on 2 of those easements, set up closing dates for 2 more, and thus just have 2 more easements to make final negotiations on. The trail will be constructed next Spring.

The Grant Creek Trail survey and design documents are complete. The next stage is meeting with each of the 14 landowners for final negotiations on the trail easements. Jackie will be assisting with this portion of the work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 5:15 – 7:30 on Thursday, August 13th at Currents.