

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
September 9th, 2010
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:	Jenny Tollefson		Absent:
	Jed Little	Mary Manning	Tim Aldrich
	Bob Clark	Gary Knudsen	Maureen Hartman
	Ethel MacDonald	Bert Lindler	Adam Liljeblad
	Jeff Stevens	Beth Hahn, Park Brd Rep	

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, Nancy Heil (County) & Jim Habeck
Joining us on the fieldtrip: Peter Nielsen (County Health), Lee Bastian (FWP), & Greg Tollefson (FVLT)

Intro of Beth Hahn, Park Board Representative

Beth has a Ph.D. in Resource Ecology & Management and currently works for the USFS as a wildlife ecologist. She applied for the position because she is interested in contributing to the community on a consistent basis and loves Missoula's open spaces, which she uses on almost a daily basis.

Final Evaluation - Thompson/Huff Properties in the Rattlesnake Valley

Members discussed the Final Evaluation criteria as it applied to the Bonnie Thompson and Rod Huff properties located at the base of Mt. Jumbo near the intersection of Rattlesnake Drive and Missoula Avenue. Bonnie's parcel is about 8.57 acres and Rod's parcel is 20.57 acres. Bonnie will deed 6.28 acres in fee title to the City and Rod will grant a conservation easement on about 19.16 acres of Rod's parcel to the City for a total of \$9,810, which is approximately the cost of surveying and re-zoning. This low price reflects that Jackie would contribute a significant amount of her time to helping with the re-zoning request to OPG. This would essentially protect another 25.44 acres on Mt. Jumbo for \$385/acre.

Morgan and Jackie visited the property to get Morgan's in-put. Morgan provided the following (which helped OSAC members in their evaluation): "After visiting the property I think this easement would ultimately benefit the city and Mt. Jumbo. Here's why:

Weed Control:

- 1) Plant communities around the Thompson Property are some of the most pristine on Jumbo. Controlling Leafy spurge and D. toadflax in this area of Jumbo has been a high priority for years. The past 5 years we have used a helicopter to place 75gal. water bladders in this area to treat weeds. We also install portable rain water collection units to gather water (but they keep getting vandalized on Jumbo). If we could set-up a rainwater collection unit on the Thompson property (where vandals are less likely to go) and access the cistern on the property, we would not require a helicopter to place water bags. This would save the city \$1200 a year.
- 2) The ability to access city lands from across the T. Property would likely save my spray crew ½ hour per day hiking time. So roughly \$500 a season in labor costs.
- 3) It's unlikely we would graze sheep in this area, but access to the cistern would make this more feasible as the sheep would have a water supply.

Additional Reasons:

- 1) Ability to close user made trails that may form across these properties to access city lands would be very helpful for maintaining winter elk closure.
- 2) Removal of old barbed wire fencing would also be good for wildlife.

- 3) Currently, there is no reason why we would build a trail or trailhead on these properties but having the ability to incorporate these properties in future trail plans may be good.....especially if we end up acquiring more lands along the west flank of Jumbo.

Members unanimously scored the project high enough to recommend approval to City Council.

Fieldtrip to Jacobs Property in East Missoula

Greg Tollefson of FVLT led us on a tour of the Jacobs property (65 acres), which is bisected by Deer Creek Road along the Clark Fork River. The property connects to the Bluff Overlook that will soon be gifted to FWP. There is about 30+ acres that lies between Deer Creek Road and the bluff that is highly desirable for placement of the Kim Williams Trail extension. Peter Nielsen explained to members where the new proposed bike/ped bridge will be located across the Clark Fork River. Funds have been made available to design the bridge, but not for construction.

Lee Bastian informed us that FWP has expressed interest in owning the 30+ acres to tie in with the Bluff Overlook. FVLT has entered into final negotiations with the Jacobs family for holding a purchase option on the property in order to give FVLT time to raise all the funds needed for the purchase. FVLT has already applied for funding through the Recreational Trails Program (managed by FWP) and has begun a fundraising campaign through their members. Pelah will present more information to OSAC about the project and the requested amount from the 2006 Open Space Bond when she returns to work after her maternity leave in January.

Jackie announced that the 2nd Thursday in November falls on a holiday and thus we need to hold our meeting on Wednesday November 10th instead of the 11th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 4:00 – 5:30pm on Thursday, October 14th at Currents.