

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
April 10, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present: Matt Barnes
Deke Tidwell
Tim Aldrich
Rob Erickson
Jenny Tolfeson
Gary Knudsen
Anna Noson
Gabe Millar
Bert Lindler
Dan Spencer

Absent:
Ethel MacDonald
Beth Hahn, Park Brd Rep

Also Present: Elizabeth Erickson, Open Space Manager; Donna Gaukler, Parks Director; Jim Habeck, Adam Liljeblad

1. Approval of DRAFT minutes of March 13, 2014. Minutes approved as submitted.
2. **Welcome new OSAC members and introductions.**
 - Deke Tidwell-Real estate agent for Properties 2000 for 5 years. He has been in Missoula for 10 years. Enjoys the open space with his wife and dog.
 - Rob Erickson- Grew up in Eastern Montana, went to UM here in Missoula. He continued on to law school in Louisiana and has been in Missoula 5 years now. He has emphasis and experience on accessing parks and public space.
 - Other members also introduced themselves with a little background information.
3. **Update on Fort Missoula Regional Park – Donna Gaukler**

Donna gave a brief overview of open space history in the City of Missoula: 3 open space bonds in Missoula: 1982-downtown river corridor, 1995-preservation of Mt Jumbo, North Hills, Southern face of Mt Sentinel, Tower Street, allowed for acquisition of park land, helped plan for playing fields in Fort Missoula, 2006-county wide bond.

None of the bonds allow for maintenance or improvements.

3 plans important to open space: 2004-Master Park Plan, Open Space Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan

Donna gave a PowerPoint presentation on Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP)

FMRP: -Is a destination, best tempered climate in the state, schedule here first and last of season

 - Provides facilities to support hosting tournaments
 - Is an America's Great Outdoors Signature Project site
 - Entire park is part of historic district; sports in Missoula started at the Fort
 - Cultural interpretation

Friends of FMRP held a survey-there is support county wide for improvement; expectant referendum for Nov. 2014

One proposal for \$1,000,000 for playgrounds

Proposal for separate grade crossing for better access to park for LMI neighborhoods

Knife River Ponds to be deeded to city-access to Bitterroot River

Lindler-How do you justify paying for the park? If the community is concerned about affording \$50 million for water, how can we afford \$40 million for a park?

Gaukler-When a city does not manage or control the utilities, costs go up. The risks of a park are much less. Phasing of bonds does not make a difference, either people want it or they don't.
Spencer- Any talk to connecting the park to McClay Flats, McCaulley Butte?

4. Discussion of OSAC roles and strategic planning
Moved to next meeting

5. Public Comment – Jim-attends all public park meetings, he was involved in the bonds to help preserve Mt Jumbo. Once land is acquired, it has to be managed. Concerned about the over use of land, concerned for the preservation of the land. This committee is just one part of the big picture. With the new membership, perhaps there should be another fieldtrip.

Jim- during Donna's update-After acquisition and development, what about the cost of maintenance after? Where will the flow of money come from? Donna-producing revenue, \$3500-4500 per acre maintenance.

6. Announcements: none

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.
Submitted by Erin Focher