

**Regular meeting on
October 9th, 2014
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Currents at McCormick Park
*Regular Agenda***

Attended by

Present:

OSAC Members:

Tim Aldrich - Chair
Deke Tidwell
Rob Erickson
Gerhard Knudsen
Anna Noson
Bert Lindler
Kevin Verlanic, Park Board Rep
Dan Spencer

Others:

Donna Gaukler
Elizabeth Erickson
Justin Snyder – Boy Scout Troop 1911

Absent:

Jenny Tollfeson
Ethel MacDonald
Gabe Millar
Matt Barnes

1. Approval of draft minutes of September 11, 2014 and August 14, 2014.

The committee moved to approve minutes of the August 14 and September 11, 2014 meetings.

2. Public Comment

Justin Snyder attending the meeting as he is working toward achieving his Citizenship merit badge. He is interested in learning about public process and how city government works.

3. Open Space request for “cost to cure” related to easements for Grant Creek Trail and update on Grant Creek Trail project.

Donna Gaukler - in 2008, per Resolution 7336, \$170,000 of 2006 Open Space bond funds were allocated to the cost of acquiring the 20' wide public access easements from multiple landowners along the route from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to the City/County line on Grant Creek Road. That figure was based upon 2008 consultants' estimates and occurred before all easements were acquired and design was complete.

The trail is currently under active construction and approximately 60% complete, including the activities that constitute “cost to cure” per easement and related construction permit agreements.

The original request and approved amount of \$170,000 for all acquisition costs including consultant services and the required cost to cure expenses does not cover the actual costs incurred and now known. A total of ~\$95,600 was necessary in consultant services to finalize procurement of all

easements and construction agreements. That left ~\$74,400 for the required, per agreement, cost to cure items. Total identified cost to cure items total ~\$150,600.

Parks staff are requesting OSAC move to support and approve the recommended Board of County Commissioners and Council for an additional \$76,000 of Open Space funds for the easement procurements.

Elizabeth – the cost to cure definition is costs associated with legal obligation associated with legal documents for the easement, related to the land owner property to make the property whole. These are costs associated with acquisition not construction.

Dan Spencer moved to recommend Council adopt a Resolution that authorizes the City to expend up to \$90,000 of the 2006 Open Space Bond funds for qualifying cost-to-cure items required for acquisition of public trail easements to extend the bicycle/pedestrian Grant Creek Trail from the north end of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to the City/County line along Grant Creek Road. Kevin Verlanic seconded the motion.

Discussion

Bert Lindler – as director of GCTA, I will recuse myself from vote. The trail is going in and GCTA gave their entire donation to the trail. We would like to see the trail completed. Note the County has already contracted to design their portion of the trail to be built in 2016.

Elizabeth – staff has met with County and City officials and ok with the motion as the project has already gone through the whole evaluation in prior years.

Motion: all members voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Lindler abstained.

4. Revisit rough cut evaluation of potential acquisition along Clark Fork River near Mullan Road.

Erickson – the proposed purchase area was 61.5 and the seller wants to draw the boundary line further out closer to the popular trees. This additional acreage is a riparian area, and would include in the parcel for sale more land on the northside of the river.

Bert Lindler supports the acquisition to preserve the riparian area and believes it is still valuable even if the trail connection could not be made.

Rob Erickson agreed that even without the easy access, there is public access during low water.

The committee tallied the rough cut and as the average score was over 7; this allows Erickson to move forward with the next phase of vetting the project.

Adjourned at 5:30 pm.