

Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting

October 12, 2017

4:00 – 6:00pm

Currents, 600 Cregg Lane

Missoula, MT 59801

Present: Eric Anderson, Robert Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Gerhard Knudsen, Janet Krivacek, Bert Lindler, Anna Noson, John Smith, Deke Tidwell, Regan Whitworth

Absent: Daniel Spencer, Kevin Verlanic

Staff: Elizabeth Erickson, Open Space Acquisitions Attorney; Paula Fisher, Administration

Public: None

Minutes

Action Items:

- Approve minutes from the September 21ST, 2017 joint OLC/OSAC meeting. Bert Lindler moved to approve the minutes from September 21, 2017. Gerhard Knudsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment: None

Discussion Items:

- Updating 2006 Open Space Plan by spring of 2018
The update process will include: brainstorm sessions, subcommittee work, community involvement (solicit input), creating a draft (circulation for comment and revision) and City Council.
- Potential for a bond campaign during the elections of 2018.
- New Open Space Plan needs to be fast tracked as we're almost out of money.
- Joint meeting in September –Discussed a subgroup of the City/County consisting of Alexis Gibson, Bert Lindler, Rob Erickson and possibly Janet Krivacek. The group will research what's for a new plan: what worked, what's needed and what was missing. Elizabeth will create a worksheet.
- **Brainstorm factors that may affect a new Open Space plan.**

Changed Conditions 1995 Present – 2006 Present
-Open Space Successes -System has Expanded -Downtown Growing up “Focus Inward” -Missoula has Grown –Population Development -Commercial Development of Agricultural Lands. -Conservation of Agricultural Lands. -City Conservation Lands and Programs = Management -Recreation: Bikes more Popular, Recreation More mainstream -Bike commuting more mainstream

Changed Conditions
1995 Present – 2006 Present

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Affordability issues – C.O.L. versus Wages -Inflation -Social Equity/Environmental Justice -Nature Deficit -Increasing Disconnect b/w Nature and Indoors -Less inventory (land available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher Prices - O.S. = More Valuable -Change in Demographics. -UM Enrollment Down -Resource Economy is Changing -Bond Fatigue/Fundraising Fatigue -Non-profits Impact/Role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Impact of Technology – -Rural Areas -Social Media -Climate Change – Fires, Smoke, Drought -Private/Public Lands – User Conflicts -Good Trail System - Management: Bitterroot Trail -Urban Wildlife -Increased River Use, Increased Conservation -Car Traffic -Plans for Bridges -Political Climate – Decreased Funding, Decreased Interest -Emphasis on Local Agriculture & Food Sources -Fort Missoula Regional Park -Community's Priorities for Open Space Changes.
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Brainstorm how to pursue a new Open Space plan:

What kind of community involvement?

What kind of community outreach structure?

- Polling
- Social Media
- Comments via email

- Outreach should be active and aggressive to get people engaged in the process.
- What are the big accomplishments of the 1995 and 2006 Open Space plan.
- Update maps.
- What still needs to be done?
- Need a summary of Open Space accomplishments since 2006 to 2017.
 - Connecting Missoula trails
 - Agricultural lands
 - Protection of river corridors
- Gather five stories to illustrate the benefits of the Open Space plan for Missoula.
- Include cornerstone map at public meetings.

What do individual Groups want to see?

- Runners
- Mountain Bikes
- People outside of Missoula
- Neighborhood Association
- Community forum – umbrella of neighborhoods

Future items

- Continue discussion on a new Open Space plan.

Paula Fisher – Recreation Support Specialist

Staff Member