

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

October 21, 2009

09:05–9:30 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, John Hendrickson, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins and Jason Wiener,

Members Absent: Stacy Rye

Others Present: Donna Gaukler

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of October 7, 2009 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement to provide Missoula Parks and Recreation with a map to show all Missoula trails, trail connections and most Missoula Parks and open spaces ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 10/05/09) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

MOTION: The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Computer Terrain Mapping, Inc. to provide mapping and graphics services for a user friendly map of Missoula's trails, parks and open spaces in the amount not to exceed \$11,900.

The Missoula's Parks and Recreation Department is seeking the services of a professional cartographer to produce a trail and park map for the Missoula Valley. The focus of this map will be to show all Missoula trails and trail connections and most Missoula parks and open spaces. The map will also show city bike routes, streets and major city landmarks. Final product will be the design files for a folded paper map. The project is funded through a grant from the Recreation Trail Project written in conjunction with Missoula Natural History Center (MNHC), Biomicry Center, Run Wild Missoula and the Parks Department. The design portion of the grant is for \$12,000 and additional \$7,500 for printing the map.

The funding was through a cooperative grant which was written by MNHC with a goal to improve access and knowledge of trail systems in Missoula. The Biomicry component of the grant is for an interpretive loop trail around McCormick Park with specialized signs. Run Wild wanted mile markers on primary trails. The grant covers the entire cost of map design and printing. There were eleven responses from companies who specialize in maps. Three vendors were interviewed including one local firm. The panel chose Computer Terrain Mapping who produces maps that are user friendly to the everyday citizen and the information used to create the maps will belong to the City. Having access to all the files allows for changes or updates to the maps at no additional cost. The long term vision is to have an interactive map to provide information on alternative transportation. This project although on a smaller scale supports that larger goal. This project will help address the frequent request from citizens for maps and trail distances and also will include an educational component.

Once the maps are created there is additional grant funding for printing. The grant can only be used for maps. One part of this project is already completed as the mile markers have been install on the river front trail.

Several of the committee members expressed their support for the map project which will give Missoula citizens and visitors a better understanding of the trail system.

It was moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Computer Terrain Mapping in the amount of \$11, 900.00. All members present voted in favor of the motion and it will be on the consent agenda.

B. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with HDR in the amount not to exceed \$18,653.00 for the Northside Pedestrian Crossing Maintenance and

Improvement project ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 10/19/09) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

MOTION: The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with HDR to provide Missoula Parks and Recreation with construction documents and project management in the amount not to exceed \$18,653.00 for the Northside Pedestrian Crossing Maintenance and Improvement project.

CDBG-R funds will be used primarily to address structural deficiencies that have developed with age. This project will also support the installation of mechanisms intended to address public health and safety concerns associated with the pedestrian bridge that spans the railroad tracks that separate the North Side neighborhood from the remainder of the City of Missoula. This facility connects two neighborhoods which have been identified as low- and moderate-income, and is one of only three access points between the predominantly LMI North Side neighborhood and the rest of the City. Of the other two crossings, one is through an underpass which is particularly unsuitable and unattractive for pedestrian use and the other is at the extreme western end of the North Side neighborhood and not generally convenient for pedestrian use. The pedestrian bridge is plagued by bird droppings from nests that are located in the bridge's superstructure. Measures to prevent nesting and roosting will be installed. The bridge also contains several locations where individuals and activities are screened from sight. These "hiding places" have contributed to crimes against persons using the pedestrian bridge and they will be eliminated through proposed improvements.

Originally the grant was to fund playgrounds, but they were declared ineligible for this money and the money was transferred to the bridge infrastructure project. However, the playgrounds were funded through HB645. There was some preliminary engineering on some of the issues with walkways, rusting, but no structural issues. The goal is to have a cleaner facility which lessens vandalism, reduce the costs of lights and to make the north end a more park like setting for the neighborhood.

This initial request is for design and construction documents and the balance of the funding will determine what is allocated based on priority. Once the structural issues are resolved the neighborhood will be involved with how best to spend the remaining funds.

It was moved to accept and recommend the Mayor sign the agreement with HDR in the amount of \$18,653.00. All members present voted in favor of the motion and will be on consent agenda.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

A. Support for City employee cash for Bus Commuters Program ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Nancy Wilson) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)

B. Consider an ordinance amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 8, entitled "Health and Safety," Chapter 8.28, entitled "Garbage and Rubbish" to provide for special management of garbage in specific areas within the City of Missoula where there is conflict with bears ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.