

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

October 8th, 2009
4:00 – 5:45 pm

Present:	Mary Manning	Absent:	
	Bob Clark		
	Karen Knudsen		Ethel MacDonald
	Jed Little		Adam Liljeblad
	Maureen Hartman		Tim Aldrich
	Jeff Stevens		
	Gary Knudsen		
	Peter Bugoni		
	Ginny Fay, Park Board Rep		

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, Jim Berkey (TNC), Doug Ardiana (Bonner School Superintendent), & Jim Habeck

Bonner Hill Property – Jim Berkey - TNC

Jim Berkey from The Nature Conservancy informed us of one more piece of Montana Legacy property that they would like us to consider – the Bonner Hill behind the Bonner School. It is just within our Open Space Plan boundaries, which was a surprise to Jim as he first took his funding request to Missoula County thinking it was within their jurisdiction. The approximately 101 acre property is adjacent to the Bonner School grounds and has traditionally been used by school children and the East Missoula residents as an extended playground for hiking and sledding. It is an important part of the viewshed to the Milltown/Bonner area and Jim stated that he has heard nothing but positive support for its protection at numerous public meetings held for Milltown/Bonner area re-development.

TNC is negotiating with FWP, DNRC, and the USFS to purchase multiple parcels surrounding the Milltown/Bonner area in conjunction with the whole Milltown Dam removal/river restoration efforts. FWP has applied for Natural Resource Damage Program funding for two parcels adjacent and to the north of the Bonner Hill parcel along the Blackfoot River. Earlier this year, Jim had discussions with those 3 entities and Missoula County about purchasing and/or owning the Bonner Hill parcel, but they were not interested and thus the Bonner School was looked to as a potential owner.

Superintendent Doug Ardiana stated his enthusiastic support for the school owning the parcel. He believes that the school is a good fit and will be able to handle management of the property with in-put and help from the local residents. For example, he said there are still many resident loggers who have indicated they would assist with any fire or beetle kill management needs. However, about 80% of the parcel was logged approximately 6 years ago so there is not much need to further manage for those two particular issues. Doug said Bonner could be the first school in the nation to own a community forest.

Doug also stated that Jamie Jonkel with FWP has observed wolf, black bear, and moose using the northwestern edge of the property to get to the I-90 bridge across the Blackfoot River and thus it is a significant local wildlife corridor. Doug has seen black bear and elk on the property. Jim said its estimated value is \$140,000 and he requested a \$25,000 contribution from the 2006 Open Space Bond funds. Jim has already submitted a request for \$115,000 of Natural Resource Damage Program funding.

Jackie asked Doug if Bonner School District is part of the Missoula County Public School system since their goals for owning land would not necessarily align with our open space goals. Doug said they are completely separate from MCPS. Ginny and other members asked about how the lands would be managed and if the public would have any in-put into management decisions. Doug said a land use/mgt plan could be developed with public in-put and all school board meetings are public. The school board would ultimately be the decision makers on management issues. Mary expressed concern about how conservation values would be permanently kept at the fore front of managing the property. Doug said he is open to ideas from OSAC about how to accomplish that goal.

Summary of Open Space Projects from 2004 & Bond Balances

Jackie used the large white boards to post all of the open space acquisitions and conservation easements obtained in the past 5 years in order to give members a perspective of where we have spent bond money, who have been our major partners, who has originated the request, and what types of lands we've protected. The 2006 bond expenditures have been as follows:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Project Origin</u>	<u>Funding Partners</u>	<u>Type</u>
1) Kelly Island Addn	\$20,000	Landowner	FWP/owners	Riparian
2) Milwaukee Trail	\$200,000	Parks/residents	CTEP/owners	Commuter trail
3) South Hills – C.E.	\$1,168,000	FVLT	FVLT/owners	Working Ranches/view
4) YAWLE E. Jumbo	\$31,000	Landowner	None	Hillside grass- lands/trees/view
5) Grant Crk Trail	\$170,000	Residents	Residents/???	Recreation trail
6) Spooner Crk – C.E.	\$25,000	RMEF	County/owners	Ranch/riparian
7) Marshall (if approved)	~\$415,000	TNC	TNC	Hillside forest/riparian
TOTAL	\$2,029,000			

1995 Open Space Bond:

1) McCauley Butte – C.E.	\$28,000	FVLT	Owners	grasslands/view
2) Tower Street – Simon	\$40,000	Parks	None	Riparian
3) Lafray Park	\$234,000	Residents	CDBG	pocket park

Discussion regarding the Final Evaluation of the Marshall Canyon Property

Ginny had a question about how final voting takes place – she thought we did the Contribution Matrices and then also had a hand vote. Mary, who has been an OSAC member for over 14 years, explained how in the mid-90's there was no formal written evaluation process and that in the later 90's, in order to have consistent criteria each time, OSAC members drafted the Rough Cut and the Contribution Matrices and that the final total of the evaluation scores for each member represents their vote. Ginny and Gerhard also said they felt rushed over the evaluation of the Marshall property and would have liked to have continued discussing it further. Jackie said she will take care to schedule more time for discussion on future projects.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 on Thursday, November 12th at Currents.