

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

June 23, 2012

9:05- 10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present Dave Strohmaier (chair), Adam Hertz, Bob Jaffe, Caitlin Copple, Cynthia Wolken, and Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Dick Haines

Members Absent: Marilyn Marler

Others Present: Donna Gaukler, Shirley Kinsey, Marty Rehbein, Becky Goodrich, Brent Dyuricza

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of June 23, 2012 were held.

B. Announcements

Donna Gaukler said the Silver Park boat landing will open July 1. The Parks Department is preparing information to be distributed to the public. This location is a landing or "take-out only" site.

The Urban Forestry Division is busy planting the 175 trees. The trees were paid for using the budget allocation, the Council had set aside for planting, particularly on Pine and 3rd and other areas in the community. Trees for Missoula, the volunteer urban forestry citizen group, is active and moving forward on marketing, education and fund raising for the urban forest. One focus is to educate citizens about tree watering. The Department is now using ooze tubes to water newly planted trees.

Playfair soccer fields had to be closed this spring for more intense maintenance and are showing positive results.

Staff has been working with the County Parks on the development of the County-owned portion at Ft. Missoula.

McCormick Park & Playfair are already busy with lots of activity with organized recreation programming.

Councilman Strohmaier thanked the department for their work. His kids caught some nice fish at Silver's Lagoon.

Councilman Wilkins announced that someone has released domestic geese at the Children's Fish Pond on Bancroft St. Wilkins said domestic fowl do not know how to feed and protect themselves in the wild. Releasing a bird in a natural park is no different than abandoning an animal.

Gaukler updated the Council about the excavation of the Silver Park/Old Mill Site. Sawdust and wood material was removed and hauled to EKO Kompost. Some of the compost has been returned to the park and has been used to top dress sports fields. Because the department supplied the wood to EKO, there was a 30% price discount on the compost.

Mr. Jaffe asked if the installation of security cameras at Silver Park has been completed. Ms. Gaukler said the Police Department's point-to-point wireless networking will be used for that system once it is brought on line later this year

Mr. Jaffe asked about the bike park. Ms. Gaukler said there are different types of bikes and each needs a different type of course. The department is looking at a bike skills park or BMX- style park. There is a community of cyclists raising funds for a park called the Tanner Olson fund. They have made a strong presence at the MOBASH skate park. MOBASH was built and designed as a skateboard only park, and MMIA, the City's insurance company encourages separation of use between biking and skating. The skate community raised funds for MOBASH, and bikes damage the surfaces of the skate park. The department has encouraged the skate park group to help the bike community with their fundraising efforts for a separate bike park. They need a strong group of leaders to see the project to fruition.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Agreement with City Life for lease and management of gym space. ([memo](#)) - Regular Agenda (Shirley Kinsey) (Referred to committee: 06/15/2012)

Motion: The committee recommends the Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with City Life to lease, and provide management of the City Life gym in the amount of \$36,000.

Shirley Kinsey said the Parks and Recreation Department would like to lease gym space from City Life. The department's sports and wellness program has been challenged to provide wellness and adult fitness programs. The local school gyms are very busy, and it's been difficult to schedule gyms as a result. The department has turned to leasing private gyms. City Life presented the department with a proposal to use their gym space. There are possibilities to partner to provide teen volunteer programming and youth drug court probation programs with mentors.

Kinsey reviewed the terms of the agreement. The lease includes the use of gym, cafe areas, storage space and restrooms. City Life has also offered the department space outside the gym to set up a table with information. The contract term is for a year at \$3,000/month and maintenance is included in the contract. City Life provides janitorial services. The department will take care of the gym and split the cost to refinish the floor each year at a cost of approx \$750.

The city is providing liability insurance to City Life with no additional premium costs. When City subcontractors use the gym, it is a city standard to require indemnification for the City, and City Life will also need to be indemnified too. City Life will honor the city's affirmative action policy and tobacco and alcohol will also be prohibited. The City will also have first right to renew of the agreement at the end of the term.

Brent Gyuricza of City Life said the community has a need for more gym space. Their church does some limited programming. They have rented the gym to the community, but it has been difficult to coordinate the schedule. They welcome the opportunity to relieve some of the management burden.

Ms. Wolken said she supports the agreement and asked how people will be aware of the difference between park programs and City Life programs. Ms. Kinsey said there will be signage and educational promotion.

Bob Jaffe inquired about the budget. Shirley responded that the budget is based on booking the facility at 90% so that the department has budget authority to spend revenue generated by programs. She presented several scenarios to reflect different levels of utilization under the lease terms. The calculations show the department will still break even with 50% usage of the gym's availability.

Bob Jaffe moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with City Life to lease, and provide management of the City Life gym pending approval of final agreement terms by the City Finance Director and City Attorney.

There was no public comment on the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

III. HELD IN COMMITTEE

- A. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))– Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/2011)
- B. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the agreement with Territorial Landworks, Inc. (TLI) in an amount not to exceed \$136,702.37 for professional services, including engineering, surveying, and construction management for Project #PR 08-02 GCT, Grant Creek Trail, CTEP #STPE 8199(105). ([memo](#))–Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)

Adjournment at 9:35 am.