

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 12, 2017

**Present:** Eric Anderson, Rob Erickson, Janet Krivacek, Bert Lindler,  
Ethel MacDonald, Anna Noson, Deke Tidwell, Kevin Verlanic

**Absent:** Alexis Gibson, Gerhard Knudsen, Daniel Spencer, Regan Whitworth

**Staff:** Elizabeth Erickson, Paula Fisher

**Minutes** – Kevin Verlanic moved to approve minutes for October, November and December, 2016. Janet requested a clarification on December minutes for the bridge cost and restoration money. The committee agreed to a clarification in the language in the minutes, then Anna moved to approve three months of minutes with a clarification of December. The committee unanimously approved all minutes.

**Strategic Discussion:**

- 2006 – Open Space Bond funds are dwindling and there are several projects that may come before the committee in 2017.
- Think about priorities for OSAC for the next 5 to 10 years

The committee discussed challenges, opportunities and priorities the Open Space Program and Open Space Plan should consider in the next 10 years:

Challenges:

Funding, human-wildlife conflicts, balancing conservation and recreation, subdivision, increasing real estate values, climate changes, wildfire management, educating the public on issues related to stewardship, grazing challenges and benefits, land management across jurisdictions (state, federal, local), keeping public lands public, populations increase, development of agricultural soils, need for housing/affordable housing.

Opportunities:

Exploring novel partnerships, federal/state legislation to support conservation, connect trails more widely, regional conservation efforts, rivers/watershed restoration, recreation access, creatively structuring land deals, focusing linking existing protected areas, more public involvement and education, deconstruction of structures and restoration

Priorities:

Agricultural conservation (small scale ag, food security, supporting new farmers by increasing access to land, partnerships, affordable farming), ensuring geographic distribution of open space conservation, study population trends and development trends, balancing public access with conservation, expanding recreational opportunities where most appropriate, changes in recreation trends, social justice/low to moderate income access to parks, trails and open space and farming, large scale wildlife and scenic projects.

**Public Comment:** None