

# Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

March 14, 2019  
Headwaters at Currents  
600 Cregg Lane  
Missoula, MT 59801

## Minutes

**Present:** DeAnna Bublitz, Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, John Smith, David Cole,  
Kristine Akland, Daniel Gundlach, Edward Monnig, Charles Besancon, Regan Whitworth

**Absent:** Catherine Ipsen, Eric Anderson

**Staff:** Elizabeth Erickson, Molly Kelly, Cassy Gladwin

### **Action Items:**

- Approve minutes from February 14, 2019  
Minutes from February's meeting are being provided by Missoula County Open Lands Citizen's Advisory Committee (OLC). Approval to take place April 9, 2019 meeting.
- Rough Cut evaluation of two potential 2006 open space bond trail connection acquisitions. Elizabeth Erickson introduced two potential trail acquisitions eligible for 2006 open space bond funds. Elizabeth explained both the purpose and process of the rough cut.
  - Deer Creek land potential fee acquisition to connect the Kim Williams Trail east  
Elizabeth provided background on the property and proposed connection to the Kim Williams trail from Deer Creek Road to the Canyon River trail underpass. The 66 acre parcel is being proposed for subdivision into three separate tracts. The future tract closest to Deer Creek Road is currently being developed for storage units.

Elizabeth proposed acquisition of the western-most tract, which will likely be 26 acres with a 60ft right of way connecting with Deer Creek Road.

The City had an appraisal done of the entire 66 acre parcel in 2012 and would require a new proposal moving forward. Discussion took place on various ways the tract could be obtained; land purchase, trail easement only, or purchase of two tracts (proposed 26 acres, and 20 acres adjacent). The committee discussed potential recreational uses for the tract/s, and access issues. While the area poses great recreational opportunities the 2006 bond is restrictive and not geared for developed recreation. There is potential to use 2018 bonds funds if the committee wishes to explore recreational development.

- 1505 East Broadway potential trail easement to connect riverfront trail to Hellgate Park  
Elizabeth provided background of the parcel of land and proposed a purchased trail easement. While the parcel of land could be sold for development, a trail easement would ensure connectivity of the riverfront trail to Hellgate Park. An appraisal of the parcel would need to be performed, as there is no current one on file. Discussion took place as to whether bond funds can be expended since the property is currently owned by the City. Elizabeth stated there is different authority for the use of open space bond funds that other funding sources, and bond funds provide certain restrictions on how the land can be used in the future. The committee discussed trail connectivity east and west of the potential easement.

Prior to the rough cut, the committee discussed various funding options; limitation of 2006 bond, ramifications of waiting to expend 2018 bond funds, limitation of pursuing future projects, etc. Rough cut evaluations were done for each project. Each received the majority needed to move forward with a motion. Charles Besancon read the following motions:

1. Move that the 1505 East Broadway open space acquisition and trail connection project moves forward past the "Rough Cut" evaluation and staff continues to due diligence work to gather additional information on whether to bring a proposal for 2006 open space bond funding and final evaluation by OSAC.
2. Move that the Deer Creek open space acquisition and trail connection project moves forward past the "Rough Cut" evaluation and staff continues to due diligence work to gather additional information on whether to bring a proposal for 2006 open space bond funding and final evaluation by OSAC.

Kristine Akland moved to approve both motions. David Cole seconded.  
Motions passed unanimously.

### **Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda: None**

#### **Discussion Items:**

- Update on open space planning process, timeline  
A joint meeting between the City of Missoula Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) and Missoula County Open Lands Citizen's Advisory Committee (OLC) was held February 14, 2019. The draft open space plan presented and discussed. Comments from both committees are being incorporated. An updated version presented for public comment should be available April 2019. Updates to the cornerstone map are to reflect committee remarks.
- Discuss 2018 open space bond project suitability criteria  
Elizabeth noted that the criteria and review process for projects needs to be updated. The 2018 open space bond allows funds to be expended on projects identified for developed recreation; the 2006 bond does not.
- Discuss April/May meeting dates and frequency  
The committee will meet as planned in April and May. Possibility for field trips to review site/ locations of potential projects.

#### **Future items**

- Appoint Vice Chair  
The Vice Chair position is current vacant and the committee needs a new vice chair..  
Appointment to take place at the April 9, 2019 meeting.
- Discuss Grant Creek area open space project  
Potential for committee to discuss a new project.

**Adjournment** 5:53pm

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#### **Submitted by:**

Cassy Gladwin  
Recreation Accounting Technician  
Parks & Recreation