

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

January 14th, 2010  
3:30 – 5:30 pm

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

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, Pelah Hoyt (FVLT), & Max Bauer (Allied Waste)

**North Hills – Allied Waste property (FVLT)**

Pelah Hoyt from FVLT and Max Bauer of Allied Waste (AW) gave us a tour of the approximately 312 acre parcel purchased by AW from the Ryan Family located in the North Hills north of the current landfill. The property was part of the Ryan Family sheep ranch for many decades. They also owned another quarter section to the SW that AW also purchased for expanding their landfill operations. To the west is property owned by Scott Cooney, Ken Knie owns property to the north, the east is bordered by the Spurlock Ranch, and the south is bordered by City open space (the Schilling property) and the Carlson Ranch.

Max would like to see the 312 parcel preserved with a conservation easement held by FVLT. He has an interest in improving the wildlife value of the land and has already begun projects towards that goal, including removing the sheep fencing along the northern border this past fall to make it easier for the North Hills Elk Herd to utilize the area. The elk are in fact already using the property more than in the past – we came across lots of fresh elk pellets.

We discussed public access to the land. Max said he has already discussed Block Mgt with FWP, which would allow for controlled hunting access. Additionally, AW has also made the commitment to work with the City in the future for some limited public recreational access. Jackie explained that Harriett Spurlock, the large landowner to the east, has a lifetime grazing lease on the City's 120 acre Schilling parcel located adjacent and to the south of the AW parcel, and thus no public access is available to traverse that parcel up to the subject parcel at this time. Additionally, the conservation values of the subject parcel are very high, and thus any public recreational access must be carefully planned in order to not adversely impact those values.

Max showed us one potential future public access point near the NW corner where there exists a one-lane gravel road that traverses Scott Cooney's property. The road connects to Grant Creek road just north of the Best Western hotel. The road that we used to access the property, which connects to the Best Western hotel parking lot, could also potentially be used for public access. However, in approximately 15-20 years when AW needs the acreage for the land-fill expansion, that access point will be eliminated.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm with the next meeting date scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at Currents.