

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

February 11th, 2010
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:	Tim Aldrich	Absent:
	Jeff Stevens	
	Bob Clark	Adam Liljeblad
	Mary Manning (via TC)	
	Ethel MacDonald	
	Maureen Hartman	
	Gary Knudsen (via TC)	
	Jed Little	
	Jenny Tollefson	
	Bert Lindler	
	Ginny Fay, Park Board Rep (via TC)	

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

Introduction of New OSAC Members

Jenny Tollefson is an independent contractor ecologist who works part-time for FVLT and other clients doing such things as baseline reports. She has two children ages 3 and 5 and moved back to Missoula five years ago. She's at that point where she has enough time to devote to some community involvement and she felt OSAC best met her interests and skills.

Bert Lindler came out west for college and fishing. He worked for the Great Falls Tribune for 17 yrs as an outdoor writer and now is a technical editor for the USFS. He is devoted to helping the North Hills Elk Herd flourish and has put in numerous volunteer hours towards that cause, including organizing barbed-wire fencing removal, weed spraying, and land preservation.

North Hills – Allied Waste property (FVLT)

Pelah Hoyt from FVLT attended to answer questions about the 304 acre parcel purchased by Allied Waste 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. Pelah went over the highlights of the conservation easement terms, including the scenic viewshed restrictions on all structures, no subdivision allowed, and no residential structures allowed. This is one of the most restrictive easements they have ever negotiated, and that is why the difference is so high between the land value without any restrictions verses with the conservation restrictions.

We discussed public access to the land. Pelah said they are working on language in the conservation easement for a public trail – possibly by stating that there is an 8' wide easement along the south, east, and west boundaries as a place holder in the document until such time that all parties can agree exactly where a trail should placed. The trail could not be constructed until a management plan has been adopted by FVLT, Allied Waste, and the City. Jackie had explained previously 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. Pelah also mentioned that Max Bauer will work separately with FWP to allow for hunting access through the Block Management program.

Bert asked about mineral rights. Pelah explained that a Mineral Remoteness Report was prepared for the property and it concluded that commercial development of minerals is so remote as to be negligible. Bob asked about the weeds. Pelah said that Jed Little and Morgan will be mapping the property in Spring and working with Max on what will be the best methods for management. Moe asked if the conservation easement requires any of the restoration work that Max spoke about during the fieldtrip (i.e. pond restoration, weeds, fencing replacement). Pelah said that easements do not require pro-active work, but that Max seems very dedicated to doing the things he talked about.

Mary said that the Palouse prairie grasses on the east 1/2 of the property are comparatively rare and so important to protect. Gerhard is excited about how much raptor and bird species will benefit from permanent protection of this large expanse of open space. Jed is excited about the potential future trail connections to the Rattlesnake.

Members conducted their final evaluation and the scoring was unanimous to approve the project.

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