

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES

June 9, 2011
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:	Jenny Tollefson	Mary Manning	Absent:
	Tim Aldrich	Maureen Hartman	Ethel MacDonald
	Bert Lindler	Gary Knudsen	
	Jeff Stevens	Adam Liljeblad	
	Bob Clark	Jed Little	
	Beth Hann, Park Brd Rep		

Also Present: Jackie Corday, Open Space Program Mgr, John Rimel (OLC member) & Jim Habeck

Boehmler Property in Upper LaValle Creek Area – Final Evaluation

Members had a discussion about the attributes of this property – the diverse wildlife and bird habitat due to the presence of grasslands, conifer forest, and the riparian corridor along LaValle Creek, the critical elk winter range, the beautiful scenic qualities of the landscape, and the history of agricultural use, including an antique apple orchard. Members felt that the money requested is an exceptional value as it equals \$86/acre. This is only the 2nd of the twelve 2006 open space bond fund projects to involve a donation where the land owners are only seeking to cover their costs (the Thompson/Huff project is the other one). Members unanimously scored the project high enough to recommend it for approval to City Council.

Five Year Anniversary Celebration of 2006 Open Space Plan & Bond

John Rimel, a member of the County Open Lands Committee (OLC) was invited to attend the meeting to discuss the idea of forming a joint OLC/OSAC subcommittee to plan celebration events for this fall. John began by informing members that he has been bringing up at OLC meetings the need to report back to the community how open space bond funds are being spent and thus he is happy to be on the subcommittee to plan events that can accomplish that purpose.

After much discussion, there was consensus on the following ideas:

- 1) A joint public Open House held close to National Public Lands Day (which is 9/24) so maybe on Sept 21 or 22 that would feature large maps posted on the walls for people to view, a slide show presentation of City & County projects, a brief explanation of how conservation easements work, and the opportunity for the public to give in-put;
- 2) Everyone really liked the idea of creating a short film – maybe 8-10 mins highlights key projects, interview landowners, past OSAC members who were key in passing the 1st plan and bond etc. The film could be shown at the Open House, posted on our websites, and used at subsequent presentations to neighborhood and civic organizations;
- 3) A volunteer project on open space or a conservation easement tied into National Public Lands Day;
- 4) A tour for the public of some Open Space projects (maybe on the Saturday before National Public Lands Day).

Other details/ideas mentioned by members included:

- We need a budget for the events – City, County and land trust partners can pitch in.
- The UofM Journalism School might be able to help with the video. Also, Steve Woodruff, former Missoulian editor would likely be interested.
- Past key OSAC members should be interviewed for the video, such as Ron Erickson, Deb Oberbillig, & Jim Parker.
- The video would be good for showing at Community Council meetings and other such public meetings to spread the success story.
- For the Open House, we should invite all landowners and ask some key ones to talk about how the bond funds helped them preserve their land.
- John mentioned the OLC Land Stewardship Award – maybe presenting this could be part of the Open House celebration.
- We will need to explain conservation easements from a landowner perspective.

A subcommittee of 3 OSAC members and 3 OLC members needs to meet prior to the next OSAC meeting, which is July 14th. Bob and Adam volunteered to be on the committee and then members nominated Ethel in her absence. The subcommittee will flesh out the ideas and help line things up. Jackie will attend those meetings.

OLC Land Stewardship Award

John explained that OLC wants to recognize great land stewards and thus they have come up with the idea of presenting an award each year to someone. John asked OSAC members to consider submitting a nomination, which will be accepted until July 1st. He said a subcommittee of OLC has been formed to review nominations. That committee decided that no present OLC member should be nominated as that might seem too insider. He said the nominees do not have to be a conservation easement grantor or even a landowner.

OSAC members discussed the idea of submitting a nomination and decided they would like to do so. Tim volunteered to coordinate the effort. Jed said he liked the idea of encouraging other landowners to do a conservation easement by recognizing a landowner who has granted one.

Jenny likes the stewardship angle because it recognizes conservation easement landowners who are doing a great job managing their land. She asked John about the Line family. John said Chris and Tim Line are excellent stewards of their land – the best managed forest in the valley. Jenny suggested a joint award with the Line and Rimel families.

Mary said Spoon Creek would be her vote and liked the idea of nominating one of our own projects.

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