

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
January 9, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present:	Adam Liljebblad	Bert Lindler	Absent:
	Ethel MacDonald	Matt Barnes	Dan Spencer
	Tim Aldrich		Mary Manning
	Jenny Tollfeson		Anna Noson
	Gabe Millar		Gary Knudsen
	Beth Hahn, Park Brd Rep		

Also Present: Donna Gaukler, P&R Director, Elizabeth Erickson, Open Space Manager and Jim Habeck - citizen

1. Approval of DRAFT minutes of November 2013. Minutes were approved as submitted.
2. Introduction of new Open Space Manager – Donna Gaukler
Elizabeth Erickson did undergraduate work in Georgia, attended the Environmental Studies Masters Program and law school at the University of Montana and clerked for the Montana Supreme Court prior to entering private law practice. Her focus has been on environmental law, estate planning and land use. She has also worked with various agencies, non profits, and land trusts. Elizabeth is excited about this job and is looking forward to putting multiple interests under one job title. She has been in Missoula the last 15years and is your typical Missoulian who uses the open space and wants to continue the preservation of open space areas. The board introduced themselves to Elizabeth and each shared their interests and experiences.
3. Annual review, updates and priority discussion. Gaukler asked each committee members to list what OSAC did well and what to do better, and where to go next.
 - Adam Liljebblad said the committee has reviewed many properties and work should continue with trail networks and the completing of the Milwaukee Trail.
 - Jenny Tollfeson said she learned that not everything is a given and this committee is just not there to rubberstamp projects. There is a good mixture of advocates for different types of open space. She is particularly interested in habitat and the Grass Valley area.
 - Beth Hahn would like to see more marketing and or public relations for open space projects and the natural resource benefit to the community. She thinks the PEAS Farm is an interesting project given there are not secured water rights for the property.
 - Gabe Millar agreed and would like to secure a portion of the riverfront land in the Maloney Ranch area as well as continue the Kim Williams.
 - Bert Lindler has three areas of concern, open space for viewshed, habitat for the elk herd and trail connectivity in the North Hills.
 - Matt Barnes agrees there is great public value to preserving open space. It was a good learning experience on some projects which didn't work out and reminder to go back and try again.
 - Ethel MacDonald agrees work should continue on the Miller Creek property. She would like to see more open space in the South Hills. She noted the PEAS farm needs to flow through the process. The committee should all be on the lookout for new opportunities.
 - Tim Aldrich thought this year the projects were more complex. He thinks trail connections make a difference to the community and to keep focused on them.
 - Gaukler reviewed the project list and some possible new projects for 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.