

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ABBREVIATED MINUTES
September 11, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Present: (quorum not present)

Ethel MacDonald
Gerhard Knudsen
Gabe Millar
Matt Barnes
Rob Erickson
Kevin Verlanic, Park Board Rep

Absent:

Jenny Tollefson
Bert Lindler
Dan Spencer
Deke Tidwell
Anna Noson
Tim Aldrich

Also Present: Elizabeth Erickson, Amy Sporna
There was no public comment.

Approval of minutes of August 14, 2014 was held as a quorum was not present.

Rough cut evaluation of potential acquisition along Clark Fork River near Mullan Rd. Erickson has been working to get application to the County for a boundary re-location. The proposed parcel is 61.5 acres and the boundary line re-location is to move the northern boundary. It is less expensive and time consuming than getting a subdivision exemption. The survey work is complex and includes issues related to the bridge and bridge abutments. Erickson met with CAO and director of Wastewater Treatment plant to discuss a partnership to benefit both open space and the wastewater treatment division, as the parcel is adjacent to the new poplar tree plantation. Wastewater may have funds available to add toward purchase of the property.

The other property owner whose land is adjacent to this property and is key to providing a trail connector is not interested at this time with a sale or easement, but might be at later date. In reviewing the proposed property the committee used the rough cut criteria to evaluate the whether or not to move forward with acquisition. The property fits into the land management plans and it protects a riparian area. The bond language does apply to this parcel – it protects water quality, wildlife habitat. It would increase access and provide additional recreation and commuter trail connections. The project budget would include survey work, appraisal costs, and acquisition. Other areas to consider are transaction, cleanup and weed control costs.

Committee members discussed the value of the property if the City is not able to secure the other parcel between the end of the Milwaukee trail and this parcel. Millar, Erickson and Verlanic all stated now is the time to move forward and the parcel has value even without the trail connection. Maintenance costs were discussed and the committee noted that the conservation lands manager is already doing maintenance in the area, as this land would be contiguous with the Tower Street Conservation Area. Ownership will help with better management of weeds and transient camps in the area, as the City could manage the entire island.

The final informal decision by the committee is the property meets or exceeds on almost all points in rough cut matrix.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm