

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

April 6, 2011
9:05–10:00 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, Ed Childers, and Lyn Hellegaard

Members Absent: Stacy Rye

Others Present: Donna Gaukler, Alex Pfister, Taylor Pfister

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of March 30, 2011 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proposal to amend the development agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County High School District for Riverfront parcels of land. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Returned from Council floor: 02/28/2011) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

MOTION: The committee recommends Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Addendum to the 1983 MCHS-City Development Agreement for Riverfront parcels of land - Toole Park (Riverbowl) allowing additional track practice facility improvements to Toole Park.

The City and the School District entered into an agreement in 1983 regarding the use and development of property commonly known as the Riverbowl, which is currently used by MCPS as a track and football practice field area. MCPS desires to improve the property to benefit the students of MCPS, and have submitted an amendment to the agreement to memorialize its requested improvements.

A discussion was held in Conservation in February as well as a public hearing. Staff and MCPS met to address the improvement details such as materials, and site specific design. The group also worked to address public comments regarding park use, parking and preservation of open space, while still permitting the improvement necessary to support the use of the facility for track practice.

The Development Agreement will remain with the additions. Several items from the initial request were removed from the addendum with the primary components focused on the actual track practice improvements.

Donna reviewed the site plan and Exhibit B which is a narrative regarding each change. The project will be done in phases. Donna noted the funding for the project is from private donations and fund raising not school general funds.

Review of the improvements:

- Cul-de-sac – placement of new fence and existing rocks removed
- Storage shed – placed to maximized open space – shed use for track equipment storage
- Discus and shot put area - removable posts to hold nets for safety around thrower,
- Signs – minimum of 3 each to be posted during any throwing practice, temporary
- Turf repair – repairs done after project complete
- Irrigation – all improvements will be done according to parks standards.
- Approval and Inspection – need a minimum of 2 weeks for all plan review before any construction at any phase. Final as built will be provided by MCPS to the City.

Discussion

Wilkins asked who would be responsible for any damage or maintenance issues to the area.

Donna – as stated in the agreement maintenance and vandalism repairs will be the responsibility of school

Alan Pfister –the area wasn't set up initially for track practice, and only has a cinder track, with no facilities for field events. In order to have a complete team practice there needs to be areas for both track and field events. This is also an opportunity to give back to community, as the area will remain open to the public and is already in use by many groups. The impacts to open space were minimized by locating improvements closer to ditch and further away from the river and foot traffic. The first phase of the project which is all funded through private fund raising is to create the area for field practice which we hope to do this year. Phase 2, the new track will require additional fund raising before we can begin construction. The approximate budget for the new track is \$200,000.

Public Comment:

Taylor Pfister – I am a freshman at Hellgate High School and compete in multiple track and field events. The proposed changes will be an improvement not only to the area but will be more convenient and allow for all track participants to practice in the same area, which generates team spirit.

It moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the addendum to the 1983 City and MCHS agreement for Toole Park. All members voted in favor of the motion.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

2. Update on advisory groups per Conservation Lands Management Plan Implementation Strategies. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 04/04/11)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM - REMOVE FROM AGENDA

In August 2010 Council approved the Conservation Lands Management Plan. The plan included management of all conservation lands in one plan. Chapter 6 of the plan recommended the consolidation of the advisory groups into one group. A referral was made by Marilyn Marler to replace the Mount Jumbo Advisory Committee and Conservation lands Technical Working Group along with the Greenough Park Advisory Committee. A Park Board subcommittee including Marilyn and staff worked thorough the issues brought out during the Conservation meetings.

The Park Board met with all groups' members of all three affected committees to best determine how to make the change to one advisory group to be called the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (CLAC). The Park Board has dissolved the MJAC and CLTWG. However, the Park Board made a determination to not dissolve GPAC until the current GPAC leadership and Park Board have met with the Greenough heirs. After meeting with the heirs, additional discussion regarding the intent of the 1955 decree, the Greenough Park donation, and the roles and responsibilities should continue.

Efforts to create the new committee to provide comprehensive oversight of all conservation lands noted in the Conservation Lands Management Plan and to represent the community per the implementation strategies and goals in the plan, including chapter 6, include the follow drafts for creation of CLAC:

- By-laws
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Application
- Directive from the Park Board

The Directive provides guidance to the new committee by creating a forum for free exchange of ideas between city staff, CLAC and the general public. The new committee will be asked to identify ways to increase efficiency and expand resources, encourage fund raising, collaborate with partners, on programs, projects, and incentives to meet the vision and goals of the CLMP.

The new committee will provide routine review of the plan and give update to the Park Board and Conservation Committee. They will be asked to adopt a holistic view but will not have authority to create policy.

It will be important to get a diverse group representing the science backgrounds needed on the committee, with broad geographic and demographic backgrounds. The Park Board would like to appoint Janet Sproull from MJAC to serve on the committee.

Discussion:

Haines – I would request the committee name (CLAC) be pronounced as See-Lack.

There was limited discussion on whether or not the Council should appoint members to the CLAC. The Park Board is creating the subcommittee and historically subcommittees are appointed by the parent board. It was pointed out that Council appoints the members of the Park Board and will retain authority for policy and no motion was made to change the process and allow the Council to appoint members to the CLAC.

Applications for CLAC will be taken until the end of May with the first meeting of the group to be a field trip.

HELD IN COMMITTEE

1. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
2. Annual tree planting program update. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Renee Mitchell) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
3. **Reorganization of conservation lands advisory committees. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 11/08/10)(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**
4. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/11)