

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

January 25, 2012

9:05-10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present** Dave Strohmaier (chair), Marilyn Marler, Adam Hertz, Bob Jaffe, Caitlin Copple, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, , and Ed Childers

**Members Absent:** Mike O 'Herron

**Others Present: Shirley Kinsey, Jackie Corday, Donna Gaukler**

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of January 11, January 18, 2012 were approved as submitted.

### II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**IV. [Discussion Date: 01/25/12]** Approve the purchase of 40 acoustical wall panels to be installed in the natatorium of Currents Water Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Shirley Kinsey) (Referred to committee: 01/23/12) (**Remove from agenda**)

**MOTION: The Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of 40 acoustical wall panels to be installed in the natatorium of Currents Water Park in the amount of \$11,848.**

Shirley Kinsey - The Currents Water Park construction design originally included the installation and use of a sound suppression system in the natatorium. The sound suppression system was cut from the project to help manage escalating construction costs. After the facility opened it was obvious to staff that the noise levels generated inside the natatorium were extreme. Staff contacted PGS Broadcast Media Services to performed sound testing in the natatorium. The test findings indicated we have a reverberant delay in the facility to be in excess of 9.3 seconds unoccupied. This means it takes almost 10 seconds for any sounds made in the pool area to become inaudible (die). This delay is more than 5 times the recommended reverberation for a facility of this type.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Patron comfort should be greatly improved by reducing the noise level in the natatorium. The comfort level for staff working long hours teaching and lifeguarding will also be greatly improved. Installation should enhance the enjoyment and well being of facility patrons and may increase attendance revenue because of it.

This project was originally budgeted for in the Aquatics Construction CIP.

With limited discussion it was moved to approve the purchase of the acoustical wall panels with all committee members voting in favor of the motion.

### V. REGULAR AGENDA

1. **[Discussion Date: 01/25/12]** Discussion on the annual Master Parks and Recreation Plan Report. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 01/23/12) (**Informational only, Remove from Agenda**)

Jackie Corday - The City Council and County Commissioners unanimously adopted the Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area ("MPP") in May 2004, which "defines the 15 to 20-year vision for the Missoula Urban Area." Since then, the Parks and Recreation staff and Parks and Recreation Board have been working to implement many of its goals in order to increase the quantity and quality of parklands and recreational opportunities in and around Missoula. A MPP action item recommends the preparation of an annual report that describes the progress made toward achieving the MPP and Open Space Plan goals over the past year. This report is in response to that action item. The Master Park Plan also provided a comprehensive inventory of parks as well as defined a level of service. The level of service of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people is a national standard.

There are two chapters in the Master Park Plan that address goals: MPP Chapter 4 contains specific goals and policies and recommended projects that are needed to meet existing and future recreational and urban park needs in the Missoula area. Chapter 5 lists specific actions and potential implementation tools to achieve the vision of the MPP.

Jackie provided the highlights of the goals achieved this year by the department.

**Goal 1.1 *"Design parks for both active and passive uses."***

Pleasant View Park Master Plan – In 2010, Parks & Recreation (Parks) facilitated a public process to develop a master plan for the 5+ acre neighborhood park in the Pleasant View subdivision. Parks, the Captain John Mullan Neighborhood Council, and the Pleasant View HOA have worked together on the plan. The process included several planning meetings with neighborhood leadership and a public park design workshop. In 2011, the draft master plan was revised into the final master plan and approved by the HOA, the Neighborhood Council, and then by the City Parks and Recreation Board in December. The design includes both passive and active playing areas, including sports courts and fields, playgrounds, picnic area, pathways, seating enclaves and a small dog park. Having the Master Park Plan in place will be helpful to Parks and the area residents for taking advantage of funding sources and opportunities as they become available.

**Goal 1.4 *"Provide 2.5 acres of Neighborhood Parks for every 1,000 residents."***

White Pine Park Development – CDBG grant for \$71,000 has recently been recommended for funding for Phase 2 development to include additional park furnishings, and the addition of a climbing/play structure. This enhances the goals to provide access to play within walking distance for every child and to promote outside physical activity.

44 Ranch Park Development – This 5+ acre park was completed in 2010 by the subdivision developer with Parks oversight. This year a second phase of the planned park added a beautiful new 40 person Picnic Pavilion.

**Goal 1.5 *"Provide recreational opportunities and facilities for people of all ages and abilities, including meeting ADA requirements."***

Splash Montana and Currents Aquatics Center continue to be extremely popular recreational facilities with all age groups. "The Lake" 50-meter pool is heavily utilized by fitness swimmers and the local competitive swim teams. This year Splash Montana and Currents celebrated their 5th birthdays with special programming and evening pricing deals. Splash MT hosted several special swim events at The Lake in 2011, including the Firecracker Swim Meet, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Zoo Town Triathlon, the Tube Bowl (inner tube water polo's annual competitive event), and for the first time, a state-wide competition – the Long Course State Swim Meet. Attendance at both Currents and Splash in FY11 was excellent with 192,000 visits, despite a cool, rainy May and June (Splash usually opens in late May, but did not open until June this year).

Other Recreation Department Highlights:

The Parks Dept outdoor program, MORE (Msla Outdoor Recr and Education), designed and implemented a new afterschool program in conjunction with the Flagship program, called **Active 6** with a goal of getting all Missoula 6<sup>th</sup> graders physically active. The program is part of a partnership with the YMCA, Flagship, Active Kids Network, and Parks & Recreation. The program will run 30 weeks throughout the year at 3 middle schools; Washington, Meadow Hill and CS Porter. As part of Active 6, Parks is offering a pass for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders which includes a free pass to Currents Aquatic Center, the Challenge Course, and free gear to use the Skatepark or Silver's Lagoon.

National Public Lands Day in 2011 had 60 volunteers working on a multitude of projects including trail construction, litter removal, weeding & tree planting at the Tower Street Conservation Area. This year's projects included many partner organizations coordinating to help make this year a big success, including OSAC, OLAC, REI, and MCC. Expenses for materials, tools and refreshments for the volunteers were covered by generous donations totaling \$1,000 from REI, Rocky Mt Elk Foundation, Five Valleys Land Trust, and Exact Image.

Volunteer Programs continued to be an outstanding success with 1305 volunteers who donated a total of 6,635 hours on projects, which encompassed work on conservation lands, developed

parks, trail projects, helping at all our special events, and assisting to prepare Splash MT for the season opening

**Goal 5.7 "Use permeable pavements, recycled materials, locally manufactured products and materials"**

Wood Waste from Mill Site – In May the State Legislature awarded Parks with a \$300K DNRC RDGP grant having completed successfully with numerous projects Statewide. Agreements with MRP, EKO and DNRC will facilitate using ~30K yards of wood waste, which was slated for the landfill, to be processed by EKO to create topdressing, bulking agent for local soils and mulch at minimal cost to the City.

Milwaukee Trail – Milwaukee trail construction this year utilized 100% crushed recycled concrete for the trail base prior to paving. This appears highly successful and is expected to be utilized throughout the trail system for trails that are paved.

***Operations development of Safety Programs***

Parks Orientation Manual revised, standardized, and utilized for Spring Training of all Department Staff. Reporting Accidents & Injuries Training Program Standardized and used for Training all staff. Parks Worker's Compensation Claims for 2010: 13 Claims for 2011: 7

**Goal 6.2 "Ensure that new residential development contributes its fair share for parks and recreational facilities to the extent allowed by state law."**

Much time was devoted to drafting new parkland regulations that require parkland dedication for apt and condo projects that don't go through subdivision review (i.e. they apply for building permits without the need to subdivide). The main purpose of the changes is to get parkland for those residents who need it most – apartment and condo owners who have little or no yards. Council adopted the zoning changes in October 2009 and Parks reviewed several large apartment projects in 2010 and in 2011 that were subject to the new rules of providing 20 % of the land towards an activity area for residents. Jackie showed the committee four specific examples of the multi-family projects small and large that have provided good activity areas for their residents.

***"Pursue agreements with the school districts to share use of open lands and recreational resources."***

Through an Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County Public Schools signed this year, four school playgrounds will now be open for community use after school hours and on weekends at Jefferson, Paxson, Rattlesnake, and Sussex. (Lewis and Clark and Franklin Schools were open to the public per an interlocal agreement through the Neighborhood grants program. Westside Park playground has been open for many years per interlocal agreement and the current lease agreement was extended 40 years in 2006.) Welcome signs will be purchased using the Kaboom Playful City grant dollars and the signs will indicate hours open to the public.

This is an information item no motion required.

**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

1. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/2011)
2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the agreement with Territorial Landworks, Inc. (TLI) in an amount not to exceed \$136,702.37 for professional services, including engineering, surveying, and construction management for Project #PR 08-02 GCT, Grant Creek Trail, CTEP #STPE 8199(105). ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Shaw) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)

**The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.**