

# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 2010  
140 West Pine Street  
9:05 am – 10:30 am

**Members Present:** Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers. Jon Wilkins, Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard, Roy Houseman, Dick Haines

**Members Absent:** Jason Wiener

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

### A. Approved minutes.

Minutes of January 6, 2010 were approved as submitted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** none

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Appointments to the Open Space Advisory Committee. ([memo](#)) –Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/04/10) **(HELD IN COMMITTEE)**

### **Grover “Tim” Aldrich**

Why are you interested in serving on OSAC? Missoulians value Open Space. Missoula has an active City and County government. Open space, parks and trails systems are needed in a growing community. Tim wants to continue to be part of the body that helps Missoula grow in the right kind of ways.

What are the benefits of having an Open Space Advisory Committee? The committee can broaden the number of people aware of programs and thus input and advise City Council and the County Commissioners. The committee brings many skills together in an advising capacity.

We share personal and professional expertise relating to the acquisition of open space, conservation, parks and trails. As a professional I appreciate the existing efforts of land set aside and also I’m a user of open space and parks. I’ve served 28 years as an Officer of the US Forest Service and as a Forest Administrative Officer. My background combines technical skills along with administrative skills.

Discuss lands you consider important to preserve as open space, parks and trails. We need to look to the future for our focus. Lands that are important to consider are agricultural, linear parks and open space. Missoula's footprint has grown and the needs and desires of people are changing. I support linear routes for recreation and commuting.

How should Open Space Committee proceed with the mission to conserve open space based on the recently passed bond? The arena is defined by opportunities: Jackie Corday has been very effective with contacts. OSAC is a voice for constituents, it works with the public and takes advice. OSAC needs to reflect what the city wants as well receive input from OSAC and City Council. It should achieve a broad representation.

Share an example of having to compromise, collaborate and deal with conflict. I’m the president of the Montana Wildlife Federation and the Hellgate hunters and anglers. I have to be a good listener, share ideas, look for answers and solve problems over the noisy minority. It’s important to find durable answers and represent various interests.

Should OSAC consider management, maintenance and public access issues with acquired lands? Absolutely, I’ve been on the Fish Wildlife and Parks council for six years. We can’t just acquire lands and expect them to manage themselves. They need to be managed. I’m currently working on the project to develop a plan for conservation lands in Missoula.

Are you available to devote the time needed to attend meetings and work on committee activities?  
Yes, I've made most of the meetings. Maybe we need to come together even more than once per month for deliberation and projects.

Stacey Rye noted that there are five positions open (four expired terms and one due to Peter Bugoni moving out of Missoula) and she asked Marilyn if there was any reason why the committee couldn't just consider the entire applicant pool of seven people for all five positions as opposed to considering the four applicants separate from the other three that applied for Peter's position.

Marilyn Marler said she would check with the City Clerk to see if that would be OK and report back to the Committee next week.

#### **Beth Hahn –**

Why are you interested in serving on OSAC? I'm a recreation user and I'm interested in management personally and professionally (Wildlife Ecologist). I'm also interested in multiple resource considerations.

What are the benefits of having an Open Space Advisory Committee? The committee has a unique advisory roll for the community. It's also a huge strength in building community ownership of lands and encouraging engagement. Participation in management of lands is important to her. We share personal and professional expertise relating to the acquisition of open space, conservation, parks and trails. My strength is working with wildlife and ecology for 10 years. I have worked in a research and a management applied capacity for the Forest Service. I deal with these kinds of issues daily in my work life. Also, I personally spend a lot of time outdoors. Discuss lands you consider important to preserve as open space, parks and trails. A mix of lands is needed for various uses and locations. Undeveloped lands are needed for wildlife as well as park lands.

How should the Open Space Committee proceed with the mission to conserve open space based on the recently passed bond? Return to the language of the bond for intent. The Committee needs to understand between types of land the distribution and the reality of opportunities. Decisions need to be made regarding dollars that are available for easements versus purchases. Tradeoffs must be considered.

Share an example of having to compromise, collaborate and deal with conflict. The regional office of the Forest Service gets controversial projects which involve compromise and collaboration with different organizations with opposing ideas. This can involve changing or withdrawing.

Should OSAC consider management, maintenance and public access issues with acquired lands? Yes, some important issues considering long term management and maintenance is based on the condition of a piece of land.

Are you available to devote time needed to attend meetings and work on committee activities?  
I am, yes.

#### **Jeff Stevens**

Why are you interested in serving on OSAC? I want to insure Missoulians enjoy and have access to open space and preserve open space through acquisition and conservation easements.

What are the benefits of having an Open Space Advisory Committee? The committee needs to review potential open space acquisitions. It also needs to look at the possibilities and work with property owners and then make recommendation for the City Council and County Commissioners in order to go forward with a purchase. The Committee is the first line of review. Funds must be spent responsibly and as creatively as possible.

We share personal and professional expertise relating to the acquisition of open space, conservation, parks and trails. I worked on OSAC for nine years which included the last open space bond issue. I learned to be careful on how the money should be spent. I worked on parks and trail issues and development. I worked on the south trail issues.

Discuss lands you consider important to preserve as open space, parks and trails. There are many opportunities. We've acquired mountain side lands. It's important to preserve agricultural

areas, with the last bond issue, from development and subdivision. Emphasize local agriculture for future sustainability.

How should the Open Space Committee proceed with the mission to conserve open space based on the recently passed bond? We need to continue to preserve agriculture and ranch lands. There are opportunities in the North Hills and South Hills. Process is opportunity driven. I've found patience is the key for focusing on getting things done.

Share an example of having to compromise, collaborate and deal with conflict. Once on the committee, everyone seems to be working towards the same goal. There was little conflict and everyone seemed to be mindful to spend the money responsibly based on the City Council and the County Commissioners recommendations.

Should OSAC consider management, maintenance and public access issues with acquired lands? Absolutely, we must keep in mind how to take care of property long term. Maintaining public lands has improved compared to the past. One of the criteria is, can property be successfully maintained.

Are you available to devote the time needed to attend meetings and work on committee activities? I'm more than willing to devote the needed time. I'm willing to devote more time. This is the most satisfying enjoyable community activity I'm involved in. I rarely miss a meeting; I have good attendance.

### **Burt Lindler**

Why are you interested in serving on OSAC? I'm interested in Missoulians wanting open hillsides and sharing the city with wildlife.

What are the benefits of having an OS Advisory Committee? The primary benefit is the opportunity to screen proposals.

We share personal and professional expertise relating to the acquisition of open space, conservation, parks and trails. I worked the last five years with the City, Forest Service, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and the National Wildlife Federation. I've worked on the weed control and the Grant Creek bear friendly garbage containers.

Discuss lands you consider important to preserve as open space, parks and trails. The Primary concern is view shed & wildlife habitat. I'm involved with the Grant Creek bike trail project along with the home owners.

How should the OS Committee proceed with the mission to conserve open space based on the recently passed bond? As quickly and conservatively as possible. This is a huge challenge to spend a limited amount of money and yet use it for the best use.

Share an example of having to compromise, collaborate and deal with conflict. I adopted an elk herd and worked with the home owners association on concerns regard hunting. I worked with Fish Wildlife and Parks, ranchers and home owners to discuss proposals. We improved habitat (weed control) in the North Hills and helped ranchers. We followed through on recommendations and it's paid off.

Should OSAC consider management, maintenance and public access issues with acquired lands? Yes, with caveats. We should never miss an opportunity to purchase land because we didn't have next year's management budget. Acquiring land is key but we must determine if the land is manageable. The benefits need to be considered. He does not see public access as required for every parcel for beneficial public use.

Are you available to devote time needed to attend meetings and work on committee activities? Absolutely, but I also serve on fires during the summer so I'm not available at that time. Otherwise I'm available.

Marilyn Marler- There will be three more OSAC interviews next week. Check the Clerks office to confirm everybody is part of the pool. Also there is one Green House Gas application.

Stacy Rye- Are applicants going to be ranked and scored?

Marilyn Marler- The council members can start with four people they like and then see who ranks the highest.

2. Consider an [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 8, entitled "Health and Safety," Chapter 8.28, entitled "Garbage and Rubbish" to provide for special management of garbage in specific areas within the City of Missoula where there is conflict with bears and an [ordinance](#) amending sections 8.28.010, 8.28.030, 8.28.050, 8.28.060 and 8.28.070 Missoula Municipal Code for the purpose of incorporating Missoula County requirements for residential rental units and updating terminology, enforcement authority, and waste container management ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Stacy Rye- confirmed that the public hearing on this agenda item is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>

Dave Strohmaier – I would like to hear more from Pam about Allied Waste and the current ordinance.

Pam Walzer – Jim Carlson from the Missoula County Health Department (County Regulations) – Allied Waste (AW) is adding automated equipment to it's fleet. They have made changes in the service of the outlying areas, mainly in the County not the City. Automated trucks, use 95 gallon container, bear resistant. The container must be unlatched for pickup by automated truck. Owner can pay to have container unlocked. Grant Creek will be getting automated service soon. There won't be an automated system in the alleys. They might expand to Upper Rattlesnake and the South Hills. Under the current ordinance the containers are 32 gallons and weigh no more than 70lbs. The current ordinance is not in compliance with Allied Wastes recommendations. Jim Carlson says it's not a problem to rewrite the County regulations but there are still bear issues.

Pam Walzer – There are dual changes with bear issues and city issues and ordinances. It's important the trucks delay their pick up schedules in these areas as late as possible.

Bob Jaffe- The language is ok. The time expectation is fine. It's reasonable for a private citizen to comply with the ordinance.

#### **Public Comment**

**Gary Bakke** (Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce) – Missoula is one of last communities in Montana that doesn't have an automated waste disposal. A concern is if the large containers are manageable based on weight when full. Are the containers bear proof? Gary doesn't believe so. The top lock does not assure it's bear proof. It's Allied Waste's intent to be consistent with their automation and keep their staff in trucks to avoid injury etc... Because of the size and potential weight it's very likely the container will be left out on the curb.

#### **HELD/REFERRED OR ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS –**

1. Support for City employee cash for Bus Commuters Program ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Nancy Wilson) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)
2. Budget update on aquatics ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 12/21/09)
3. Appointments to the Greenhouse Gas and Energy Conservation Team. – ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/04/10)
4. Review Conservation and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee referrals. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)

[The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM—Respectfully submitted by Paula Fisher](#)