

**Greenough Park Advisory Committee
Minutes**

April 5, 2010

Present: John Pierce, John Horrell, Barbara Stanley, Matthew Koehler, Kathleen Kennedy, Susie Spindler. Also present: Morgan Valliant, Jim Habeck and Hank Butzel. Excused: Cyndy Braun.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Parks and Recreation update/status of bridge and stream structures: Morgan reported that a longer bridge span (standard pack bridge) will be needed to satisfy federal requirements. There would be less need to remove a longer span in the event of an abnormally high spring runoff. Pine and maple logs can be milled from city tree removals, and stringers can be reused from other bridges. Buried gabion baskets with cement footings would be set into the stream bank to support the longer span. Negotiations are underway and approval is pending for labor to be donated for construction and concrete pumping. John Pierce stressed that it is desirable for the fish hatchery dam to remain in place as well as utilizing a diversion structure upstream to reduce stream flow in the east channel. Morgan will make sure that required permits are obtained. Time of work will be limited by spring run-off and bull trout spawning.

Legacy tree bark beetle treatment: Morgan reported that the Montana DNRC has granted \$125,000 for selective thinning in the Rattlesnake Valley. \$3,000 is available to purchase pheromone packets. Fund-raising is underway to raise additional money for treatment of trees in the Rattlesnake as applying packets will likely be a multi-year endeavor. The best time to hang the packets would be mid-May. The city plans to buy packets in bulk, and may be able to sell them to residents at a discount with money raised going towards the purchase of more packets. As an aside, John Pierce noted that the hazard tree at the south end of the park at the junction of the stream channels is owned by the city rather than a private landowner.

Restoration ecology student projects: Prof. Cara Nelson of the UM Wildland Restoration Ecology program introduced herself. Undergraduate students in the program are planning a restoration project and organizing a volunteer work day on April 10. The project will begin in section 22. The city will cut Norway maples prior to the work day. On April 10, at 9 a.m. volunteers will sign up in the lower parking lot, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. volunteer crews will plant native trees and a second planting session will take place from 2-3 p.m. About 25 volunteers are expected to participate. Ecology students will continue to collect project data and photograph study areas.

Brochure and park map: The map of city parklands will be ready in about two months. Morgan anticipates that the committee can review the Greenough Park section at the June GPAC meeting. Morgan reported that Sue Reel has obtained stimulus funding for the Forest Service to replace the Bolle Trail bird signs. There is no funding to replace the vandalized "watchable wildlife" signage so it will be removed. The city outdoor recreation volunteer program will provide labor to plant vegetation as a buffer behind the bird trail signs as well as vegetation in Alvina Park to define areas to remain unmowed along the creek.

Runners Edge benefit run: Anders Brooker will organize a run to raise money for the bridge project and for upgrading the restrooms at the picnic shelter.

Other agenda items: Barbara noted that the masons did not finish capping the stone on the bear cage last summer. John will ask Phil Maechling to contact the masons.

Membership will be notified whether the next meeting will be held on May 3 or June 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stanley, Secretary