

Greenough Park Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 6, 2011

Present: John Pierce, Barbara Stanley, Cyndy Braun, Bill Burnett, John Horrell, Kathleen Kennedy, Matthew Koehler, Morgan Valliant. Also present: Jim Habeck, Lois and Russell Hartse, Judy Kiely, Hank Butzel, Tom Cook.

Minutes: John Horrell moved to approve the March minutes. All approved. It was noted that the May 2 meeting was an unofficial meeting since it was not publicly announced.

Public comment: Tom Cook commented on the letter to the editor of the Missoulian written by Bob Rajala (May 1, 2011). Mr. Cook feels that the placement of woody debris along the creek presents an “unfriendly” aspect to the park. He emphasized how important it is for children to have the opportunity for access to play in the creek. Committee members responded that the brochure will designate suitable points of access to the creek.

Boundary survey: Neither Dave Strohmaier nor Steve Niday were able to attend today’s meeting. Morgan reported that discussion of completing the survey and interpreting the legal points is ongoing. Fees for completing the survey need to be paid and it was questioned which agency bears this responsibility. It is hoped that the survey can be completed this year.

Status of CLAC and GPAC: Morgan reported that there has not been a large response to the call for membership applications to CLAC. The deadline for applications is June 7, 2011. The current intention is to maintain the status of GPAC for at least a year after CLAC forms a working committee. John Horrell presented a motion that GPAC inform the City Council (through the Conservation Committee) that GPAC is opposed to its dissolution at the present time, but that the committee issue a neutral statement (the draft memorandum under discussion) outlining our points of concern about the disbanding of GPAC. Bill seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. John Horrell will send the draft memorandum to the membership for comments and revision.

Brochure with map: Steve Niday has a GPS map of Rattlesnake Creek, and Morgan has maps showing trail features in the park. Kathleen volunteered to coordinate the two maps and to put designated stream access points on the map which can be incorporated into the brochure. Kathleen will circulate the text of the brochure to the committee for final revision. Morgan will submit the text to the Parks Board for approval.

Open house: John Pierce stated that some members of the public have expressed an interest in a tour of the park explaining the management units and the work that has been done in them since 1995. Morgan suggested that the tour be conducted in conjunction with the August GPAC meeting. The tour would be announced in the Missoulian.

Other agenda items: John Pierce noted that pine seedlings and fruity shrubs are germinating on the island unit. John asked for help removing houndstongue and burdock. Giles Thelen (Native Yards) and a crew of eight people dug out poison hemlock on the west side of the park. Morgan reported that Monarch School students are interested in volunteering to remove rock dams in the creek.

The next Greenough Park Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stanley, Secretary