

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

September 29, 2010

9:05–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, and Stacy Rye @ 9:40, Dave Strohmaier and Roy Houseman

Members Absent: Jon Wilkins, Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Dave Shaw

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of September 15, and September 22, 2010 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS –

V. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010) Informational item – **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Dave Shaw provide the committee with updates on two specific trail projects and answered questions related to these projects as well as other potential trails. ([Map 1](#)) ([Map 2](#))

The first project to be discussed was the continuation of Kim Williams Trail, which is proposed to go under I-90 and connect the trail system to the Two Rivers State Park. Using GIS data, Dave was able to show committee members the proposed route and issues related to trail development. The general idea is to create a connection between the Kim Williams Trail to the loop around Bandman flats. The trail would pass under the MRL trestle and the I-90 bridges then back to the Kim Williams completing a three mile loop. This trail has had preliminary design work and acquisition of easement. The new trail would serve mainly as a non-motorized commuter connection to the University area and will also be great for recreation use. Once this connection is complete, it will be the non-motorized version of a “freeway” for the area.

The encroachment permit from MDT has been approved. Now staff will work on submitting an application to MRL for an easement for the trail on their property and under the train bridge. MRL is requiring preliminary engineering work as they want specific details to prevent trespassing over the tracks. Staff is proposing a fence to protect the public. The trail would be an eight foot wide paved trail, with funding from CTEP. The time line for trail development is to finalize acquisitions, complete legal agreements and submit a CTEP application for approval. The CTEP approval will be a four to six month process.

Dave provided the committee with other trail options in the area including an extension to connect Milltown and Bonner. These connections are in concert with the overall master plans for the Two Rivers Park area.

The next trail discussed was the extending the trail on Mullan and Reserve. Earlier this year the County completed a trail along Mullan from Flynn Lane to Coty leaving a gap between Flynn Lane and Reserve. Dave showed the committee possible trail routes. This trail is in the very early stages of development and the next step will be to do a feasibility study and easement acquisitions. The concept of going east from Reserve Street and along Mullan to extend the trail through to Russell Street was also discussed but again this is a concept in the early stages for development of the trail.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VII. **HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler**

1. Resolution to expend \$175,000 of 2006 Open Space Bond proceeds towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the 1036 acre Quebec Deschamps Creek Ranch located approximately 2.5 miles NW of the Wye intersection of I-90 and Hwy 93 N. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 09/13/10)

2. Discuss the Urban Forestry program. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye) (Referred to committee: 09/20/10)
3. Review Urban Forestry Component of the FY11 Park District 1 Work Plan. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/20/10)
4. Update from the Greenhouse Gas Conservation Energy Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 09/13/10)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.