

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

May 4, 2011

9:05–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, and Ed Childers

Members Absent: Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Dave Shaw

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of [April 27, 2011](#) were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

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

Dave Shaw provided the committee an update on some of the trail projects he is currently working on. Dave showed aerial photos with conceptual trail ideas which he stressed that the maps he is using are for planning purposes and don't necessarily represent the City intention to acquire land or pursue public access on lands. Dave provided a web site for the [active transportation plan](#) which incorporates some of the projects he is working on.

Riverfront – Mullan Reserve to Town, feasibility & options

The goal is to build a trail that will continue the current trail on Mullan which stops at Flynn Lane and to get bike/ped safely through the Mullan/Reserve intersection. Restrictive right away, the potential need for acquisition for public access and topography makes trail design challenging. Rather than continuing down Mullan one proposal would be to route the trail behind Wal-Mart down Clark Fork Drive and then connect back and to the east on Reserve Street. Any construction done within the flood plain would need to include the proper authorities and appropriate permits. If possible the plan would be to try and continue the trail east along the riverfront. Another challenge exists at the mini storage lot and Mountain Supply properties. One solution may be to push the trail out to Mullan Road. After Mountain Supply, the trail could then head back toward the river provided easements could be acquired and then on towards Russell Street on the current trail easement. Dave is not currently working on this project as there are no identified funding sources and it will take time to acquire property or easements. The project is supported by City planning documents.

Pam – This project is high on Captain John Mullan neighborhood priority list and suggested checking with the County for some available funds.

Milwaukee – construction update

After a lengthy process to obtain trail easement the Milwaukee Trail has been under construction for a few weeks now and is moving along as planned. LS Jensen has focused its efforts on the installation of culverts for the 6 irrigation ditch crossings that will be part of the project. Irrigation water was scheduled to be on by April 15 so it was critical that all the culvert work was completed before that date.

Dave is leading a tour of the trail on Saturday, May 7 at 1pm as part of Bike Walk Bus Week. The tour will begin at the corner of Russell and Dakota. This project is unique as it includes all types of trail facilities. Dave explained the design of the way finding bollards and other signage which will incorporate the Milwaukee Railroad and Missoula Trail logos. There will be larger signs at street crossing to alert motorist and point out the route to trail users.

MRA is interested in funding lighting for the new trail segment in URD III (Garfield to Russell) and continue lighting from Russell to the Orange St. Underpass. The lighting project will overlap the Milwaukee Trail project between Russell and Garfield. Design and construction for this project will be fully funded by through MRA.

Bitterroot Branch Trail – South to Livingston:

Preliminary engineering work has been complete for this project for some time now. The next step in this project is to acquire easement from MRL for the trail. This is a Rail with Trails project that parallels the active rail line. Dave has been working with MRL on several different pieces that would be beneficial to the trail system to acquire trail easements.

The committee discussed possible trail options in the area if easements could not be obtained from MRL.

BBT – Spruce to Toole

The trail was built with development in this area and is part of the redevelopment project for Draught Works. When the Meadow Gold site was redeveloped a trail was constructed from the alley to Spruce. This next section would go from Spruce to Toole.

Grant Creek trail – there has been positive progress made on easements and the plan would be to construct a trail next spring.

HELD IN COMMITTEE

1. Update from Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 04/11/11)
2. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/11)
3. Grant of a conservation easement to the City on a 20.57 acre parcel on the west side of Mt. Jumbo and transfer in fee simple of a 6.28 acre parcel located adjacent and to the north. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 04/18/11)
4. Update on the University's efforts to install or utilize biomass fuel to generate energy on campus. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dick Haines) (Referred to committee: 04/25/11)
5. A resolution that authorizes contributing towards the purchase of a 35 acre parcel adjacent to Deer Creek Road near Bonner with 2006 Open Space Bond funds. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jackie Corday) (Referred to committee: 04/25/11)

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.