

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 21, 2012

Room 326, City-County Building

Chair Mary Arnold called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Melissa Broch, Corey Baker, Mary Arnold, Lois Olson, and new member Scott Mincemoyer representing the HCC. Staff: Brad Langsather. Scott gave a brief self introduction.

MINUTES: The January 10, 2012, minutes were accepted as presented.

There was discussion of election of officers. Corey offered to serve as vice-chair. Lois offered to serve as secretary even though she is nearing the end of her term. Mary allowed as how if she served as chair again it would be her last round as she is nearing the end of her second three-year term. The March agenda will formally include election of officers.

REPORTS:

Natural Resource Coordinator: Brad reported briefly on some of the burning projects and reseeding and some tree mortality where weeds were sprayed. The east face project is completed. There was brief discussion about the fir trees blowing over. He noted trees were being cut on the east side, loaded on a pickup trailer, and hauled by rail to St. Regis. Brad is getting a new pickup with a plow and sander to work on areas street department does not do. He also noted some of the saplings have red turban beetles. Chipping will not occur after June 1. He noted there were three public education outreach projects. The city acquired another 21 acres on Mount Ascension. Greta did a lot of weed work in several areas with weed pulls and spraying and will continue with that this season. Brad said the fence around the archery range is completed and will do the parking area in this year's work plan. The NCCC will start May 15 and will be here two months. The Narrate Church also continued its firewood work with LIEAP. Thinning will be occurring above Rhode Island with minimal truck trips. There will also be a joint project on the back side of Mount Helena with the city, Forest Service, and BLM. He commented transient camps may diminish with the elimination of some of the thicker areas. He is seeking more volunteer groups to help with the firewood project. He will continue to work with Prickly Pear Land Trust to finish the backdrop project with three areas left to acquire. Other projects will be the extension of Le Grande Cannon trail and

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sign installation. The old shooting range parking lot has to be repaired from flood damage. Brad said there would be a lot of trailhead work to upgrade them. There was a request to have Greta meet with the weed group. There was discussion about grant writing in conjunction with obtaining a wildlife guzzler. There was discussion about when the 2012 work plan is presented to the city commission, which will probably be April.

Trails: Corey reported briefly on the social trails project. There was discussion about who would take on different trails to survey. If people are overwhelmed with the area they have to cover, he has some other interested souls who are willing to help.

Cultural Resources: Brad noted the cultural resources report on the south hills indicated there was not much to be found of any import.

Wildlife: Melissa did not have anything to report as the deer committee has not met. (The Urban Wildlife Committee has been disbanded and the task assigned to the Helena Citizens Council (HCC)). There was discussion about mountain lions.

Forestry: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 13, 2012

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: initial review of 2012 work plan

Carol Kirkland
Recorder