

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 9, 2014

Room 326, City-County Building  
5:31 to 6:29 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane, Bestsy Miller, Jim Philips, Jane Kollmeyer, and staff Brad Langsather and Greta Dige.

Jane Kollmeyer joined the meeting 5:35 pm.

Craig McLane left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

**Minutes:**

McLane moved to approve the November 18, 2014 minutes. Miller second the motion. Motion passed.

**General Discussions:**

Wirak asked if committee members had any grant support letters to give to Brad for inclusion in with his grant submission. Langsather noted that some of the grant needs some clarification work specifically the low income assistance and some education efforts. Langsather noted that the more letters the better. The grant is due January 15, 2014

Wirak asked for an update regarding the Beattie Street parking lot. Langsather noted he'll get the engineering diagram put together and send it to the committee. Once reviewed it will be forwarded on to the BLM for their approval.

**Wildlife subcommittee:**

Wirak asked if anyone was interested in getting the committee going. Philips and Miller noted they'd be interested in working on this committee. Kollmeyer noted that former committee member Lois Olsen may be interested in this as well. One of the issues is to explore the possibility of providing a wildlife "guzzler" for a water source for deer. This may keep the deer up in the hills instead of in town. A guzzler may cost about \$15,000 which would be sought to be provided by grant funds.

**Trails:**

Wirak discussed the tree bark piles at the Dump gulch trail head. Langsather said he's aware the piles and plans on cleaning that up.

Crystal drive trail was discussed. Generally the idea is to connect some public lands near Southhills drive, Lime Kiln drive, and Lodgepole road.

Langsather noted last night the trails meeting was last night. He noted he's working on the trails contract for next year for PPLT, so he's open to input. Possibly use volunteers for more trail improvement rather than reroutes. Langsather asked the committee members to provide any input on sections of trails that are believed to need improvements.

Dige will send out an email to committee members that will have a link to a mapping website for the City's trails/open lands.

**General Discussion (continued):**

Langsather discussed the wetland group (Wetland Conservation Committee "WCC") that is working on obtaining some lands near the fairgrounds. It is known as the Charles Vanhook wetland area. City will gain ownership via deed from PPLT.

**Weeds:**

Dige requested a \$24k weed grant. If we get the grant, the City and PPLT will use it. Dige will have to do a 10 minute presentation. The grant is submitted to Department of Agriculture.

Dige recently went to a trail mapping gathering with Pat Doyle (Bike Helena) and PPLT to evaluate mapping systems such as "trails forks". For example, people could submit a trails conditions complaint via a mobile application that uses pictures and GPS information. This could be used to keep people informed of trail conditions such as mud and ice.

**Volunteers-Ambassadors with the Police Department:**

None

**Funding:**

No report

**Public Comments:**

None

McLane moved to adjourn the meeting and Miller second the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** January 13, 2015 at 5:30

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**