

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 14, 2014

City-County Building, room 326
5:30 P.M.

Chair Lois Olsen called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Brad Langsather, Dan Wirak, Jane Kollmeyer, Jim Phillips, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane, Dawn North

MINUTES The December 12, 2013, minutes were approved as corrected to reflect the review process for reopening the road on Forest Service land would go through the NEPA process instead of MEPA.

DISCUSSION Lois noted there are two new subcommittees: funding and volunteer. There is also the weed subcommittee that Greta chairs and the trails group Corey chairs. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that Lois serve as chair of the funding subcommittee. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that Jim serve as chair of the volunteer subcommittee. Funding subcommittee: Lois, chair, Craig and Jane members; weed subcommittee: Greta chair, Clint, Jane, Lois, and Dawn members; trails subcommittee: Corey, chair, Dan and Dawn members, volunteer subcommittee: Jim chair, Dan and Torey members. There was discussion of whether or not to have a wildlife subcommittee. Consensus was to have an ad hoc committee as needed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to not have a wildlife subcommittee and create an ad hoc committee as needed. Lois noted the subcommittees may need to plan a schedule for their meetings and public notification. There was discussion of posting the meetings. Brad was asked to follow up on public notification requirements. Brad noted there was no update on the encroachment issue. The mayor did respond to HOLMAC's letter that the city was aware of the problem. Brad will inquire if there is another meeting scheduled on the issue. He will also prepare a draft work plan for the 2014 season for an open house at the March meeting. There was discussion of the need for wayfinding signs for open land trailheads.

REPORTS

Natural Resource Coordinator: Brad reviewed the creation of the more formal contract with Prickly Pear Land Trust for trail work including a dollar amount. Corey is responsible for planning trail projects and has had good luck with the adopt-a-trail

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program and will conduct trail and sign inventories. There was extensive discussion of trail usage and signage. There was agreement a trails and signs strategy meeting should be planned soon. (Jan. 28, 5-8 P.M.) There was extensive discussion of the need to clarify the trail subcommittee's composition and chairmanship. Brad reported he and Heather from PPLT just prepared another community forest grant application.

Volunteer: Jim gave a brief report of money available for some supplies. Training will be at the police facility at the airport. HOLA will be the Helena Open Lands Ambassadors and will have a car for the volunteers.

Weeds: none

Trails: none

Forestry: none

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 11, 2014

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: weed update; volunteer update; 2014 work plan;

Carol Kirkland
Recorder