

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 18, 2014

Room 326, City-County Building  
5:45 to 7:10 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:43.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane, Ann Gilkey, Bestsy Miller, Jim Philips and staff Brad Langsather.

Robert Rasmussen (Non-committee member and Prickly Pear Land Trust trails director) joined the meeting at 5:50 pm.

Staff Dige Dige joined the meeting 5:55 pm.

Jane Kollmeyer joined the meeting 6:03 pm.

Craig McLane left the meeting at 6:37 pm.

**Minutes:**

Note:

- On September 9<sup>th</sup> the committee met in the field at the “new upper” part of the waterline trail; no formal minutes were taken due to being in the field:
- On October 7<sup>th</sup> the committee met at the “olf course” and toured the course and the new bridge and improved trail. No formal minutes were taken due to being in the field.

Gilkey moved to approve the August 2014 minutes. Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**General Discussions:**

Langsather’s report:

Langsather discussed the cooperative grant in conjunction with Prickly Pear Land Trust - Community Forest Program grant, approximately \$150,000. He would like the committee to help generate some support among the community to be attached to the grant application. The grant will highlight the forest products that will help low-income families with energy assistance (i.e. fire wood), and volunteer participation in trail creation and maintenance.

Langsather discussed the work being completed by the independent contractors for the FEMA projects for tree thinning. It needs to be closed out by January 2015. He noted only one citizens complaint related to taking out too many trees.

Langsather discussed the possible land swap near the folf course. He noted that he submitted a report to the Park’s Director, based on discussions with HOLMAC in the field, showing the positive and negative components to the proposal. The negatives outweighed the positives, so the Director informed the

interested party that the City was not interested in pursuing the land swap, but would be interested in possibly supporting an emergency route.

Philips asked about progress regarding the Beattie Street parking area. Wirak asked that this be an agenda item for HOLMAC's next meeting.

Kollmeyer discussed some erosion from a recent constructed home where the erosion is going over the public trail.

Langsather discussed the wildlife committee and wanting to work on a water source for wildlife on Mount Helena.

Philips congratulated Langsather for the completion for the golf course trail and keeping under budget.

Philips and Langsather discussed the possible recreational purposes act application to the BLM for some trail extension in the Wikina sky area.

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

Lieutenant Kiltner is moving to Hawaii, so the ambassadors program may get abandoned due to the lack of coordination.

**Trails:**

None

**Weeds:**

Dige: working with PPLT on a weeds grant which will cover much of the South hills area. The grant will go over two seasons. The grant will be for approximately \$23,000. This is with the Department of Agriculture.

Dige discussed the insect sights and documenting where they are.

**Funding:**

No report

**Public Comments:**

Rasmussen discussed the PPLT trails and his role there.

Ann moved to adjourn the meeting and Kollmeyer second the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** December 9, 2014 at 5:30

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**