

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

December 8, 2015

Room 326, City-County Building  
5:34 to 6:22 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Eric Sivers, Jim Philips, Jane Kollmeyer, Ann Gilkey, and Betsy Miller. Also, Nate Kopp with PPLT, and staff Brad Langsather and Greta Dieg.

**Minutes:**

Minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting were presented. Please note: the HOLMAC met in the field the in October and as such no formal meeting and minutes were prepared.

**General Discussions:**

- Philips moved and approved the November 10, 2015 minutes. Kollmeyer seconded the motion with correction. Motion passed.
- Langsather discussed the upcoming public hearing regarding lots 11 and 17 that the PPLT is transferring to the City. The public hearing will be primarily discussed by the city attorney (Thomas) explaining the process. Langsather will also discuss the donation from PPLT to the City. County should approve the purchase of lots 20 and 21A on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The City's meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> on Monday at 6:00. Langsather hopes the IR will do a nice story of Mount Ascension and the history of the park and how it got to where it is now. This will culminate the PPLT "backdrop initiative". Langsather wants the committee to go up there this spring to take a look and plan some items like fencing, etc. The County, along with funds from Fish Wildlife and Parks, is funding the City to purchase lots 20 and 21A. The City has not had "purchase" funds since the 1990's open space bond funds, which is the primary reason the County is involved to provide the open space funds to accomplish this purchase.
- Wirak asked that Langsather to make arrangements for an introduction to the new city commissioners. Langsather also noted that the mayor would like HOLMAC to take him up Mount Ascension for a tour.
- Wirak asked for an update on the potential land purchase near the Beattie street trail head. Langsather noted that the current owner's may sell or transfer this property to their adult son.
- Langsather discussed the Community Forest grant application which is due in early January 2016. He noted to receive the grant, the application needs to highlight a few goals. For instance, an "educational" component is a key attribute along with economic benefits. Langsather is very confident about the economic benefit aspects as he's been working on the merchantability aspect of the beetle-killed trees that can be harvested and made into furniture by an Omish mill near Gold Creek Montana. Also, similarly, much of the wood can be donated to the LEAP program for low income families heating needs. For the educational aspect he wants to explore some ideas with Carroll College and the local high schools and middle schools. The community forest grant work will cover approximately 140 acres and is in the Arrowroot road and Mount Ascension area. Langsather will send out a sample letter for the Community

Forest Grant for the "Mount Ascension Natural Park". It is due on January 16, 2016. Langsather will attach the map. Committee members should bring letters to next meeting.

- Langsather noted that the field review of the Saddle Drive/Folf course trail has been completed and he expects the Fish Wildlife & Parks will sign off of its completion and reimburse the costs in accordance with the grant funding. Brad noted that we got this funded.
- Langsather noted that the mount Helena restroom funds will be approved. Got awarded the \$100,000 funding grant from DNRC.
- Annual CCIP meeting is coming up. Not sure what this is....
- Langsather noted that nothing more regarding car break-ins at some of the trail heads.
- Dieg briefly discussed weeds. She noted she'll apply for some weed grants for 2017, but did not for 2016 as the year got away with other demands on her time.
- Nate gave a brief update on trails.
- Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Kollmeyer second the motion. Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** January 12, 2016 at 5:30 City County Building.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**