

HELENA OPEN LANDSMANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 10, 2015

Chair, Dan Wirak, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Members present: Dan Wirak, Betsy Miller, Jim Phillips, and Ann Gilkey. City staff present: Brad Langsather and Greta Dige. Guests present: Jenny Sika and Tom and Sharon Woodgerd.

B. Miller moved to accept the minutes from 1/13/15 meeting. J. Phillips seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Forest Grant: Langsather advised that the Community Forest Grant was submitted to the Department of Agriculture. He expects a response in June.

Beattie Street Trailhead Parking: Langsather explained that the issue with the Beattie Street trailhead parking lot is on hold for a while to allow for further discussions with the BLM to develop possible options to address the need for different parking space.

Wildlife Subcommittee: Jenny Sika, area biologist for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shared her thoughts and concerns related to the installation of a water guzzler for wildlife on the Mt. Helena ridge. She questioned the need for an additional water source for wildlife in the greater Helena area. She indicated that there is no way to know how wildlife would react to a guzzler, but questioned whether a guzzler would keep deer from migrating into town in the evening. She expressed concern about more wildlife congregating and the risk of disease, as well as a possible increase in wildlife which could attract larger predators closer to town. She suggested the committee consider purchasing bear-proof garbage containers and limiting trail density. A decision on pursuing funding for the installation of guzzlers is on hold while the committee gathers additional information.

Tom Woodgerd asked HOLMAC to consider installing nesting boxes for geese in the city set-back/easement along Crystal Springs Creek in the valley (off Ten Mile Creek). City staff will look at potential locations and build as appropriate. They will also help the Woodgerds with their offer to plant native plants and vegetation in this riparian area.

Parks and Recreation Report: Langsather reviewed his 2015 trails projects with the committee.

Weeds Subcommittee: G. Dige will be presenting a proposal for a \$25,000 Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant. City will use 90% of funds. Private landowners will be able to use some of the funds.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: March 10, 2015 meeting will be held on the trails –weather permitting. D. Wirak will send out an email prior to the meeting with directions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.