

# CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

## MINUTES

October 1, 2014

City-County Building, room 426

### CALL TO ORDER

11:34 A.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Payne, Ross Johnson, Jane Kollmeyer, Dennis Peterson, Pat Doyle, John Carter, Melissa Lewis was absent.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

City Commissioner Andres Haladay

County Commissioner Andy Hunthausen

### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Bryson, Craig Marr, Amy Teegarden, Liz Jones, Matt Heimel, Carol Kirkland

### ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

A quorum was present.

### CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

The September 3, 2014, minutes were approved as presented.

### PRESENTATIONS –

**DISCUSSION ITEMS** - Standing Items: proposed regional park district: Amy gave a brief summary of the joint work session process on October 2 for the Jefferson and Lewis and Clark county commissions, East Helena city council, and Helena city commission. Pat began a rehearsal of the PowerPoint presentation that will be made at the joint work session. Amy reviewed the Phase 2 planning process and funding options. Eric reviewed the per parcel funding formula and the possibility the assessment amounts would not be 'sellable' in Lewis and Clark County even though county residents are users of city parks. Priorities for the county would be more money for their regional parks and lower funding levels. If a district does not pass, parks will begin to deteriorate. Phase 2 would fully fund parks, and some of the work could be done in-house. Although the county is generally supportive of a district, Eric noted his commission would likely not be inclined to move forward with it because of timing with the potential law enforcement facility and school bonds. There was some agreement that if the project had to halt assessment levels and a governance framework might be something that could be mothballed until the proposal could be brought forward again later.

La Casa Grande Park – Matt reviewed his memo suggesting a maintenance plan for the park as well as grant proposals and the fact that the \$50,000 request would take a large amount of the southeast region's \$75,000 park development fund. Stacy noted the La Casa Grande area has been saving up money for a playground and could work with the idea of grants and county funding. Other areas have also submitted requests for projects in the southeast area.

**ACTION ITEMS –  
REPORTS -**

CITY – Amy noted the tobacco-free park recommendation will be considered at the November 5 administrative meeting (see note). She noted attendance at the MTRPA conference in Butte and Pat Doyle's award for his work on advocating for Helena's biking opportunities.

COUNTY – Matt noted the county's open lands program is being overhauled and streamlined. He also noted the 30-day public comment period for the Johnson conservation easement is currently ongoing.

HOLMAC – Jane reported 50 trail signs have been ordered and will be installed by the Montana Conservation Corps on open lands.

LINCOLN – Denny blew out the Hooper Park irrigation system and will close the park in two weeks. He said the art walk installation is being well received. This is his last meeting as his term has expired. Denny was thanked for his service and participation.

RECREATION – Liz reported summer recreation program numbers and noted a reduction in the bill to the Kay McKenna Youth Foundation because of the reorganization of the recreation division. Montana Conservation Corps volunteers came out on a rainy Public Lands Day to work at Centennial Park. She is currently brainstorming some new programs. The skateboard academy was a huge success thanks to Larry Kucsalin of Cutbird Skateboards. Liz complimented Craig and Pat on all the work at the bike park.

MAINTENANCE – Craig reported normal fall maintenance including irrigation blowouts and pool shutdown. Blue Cross Blue Shield also volunteered at the bike park. Staff is still doing water line repair. Urban foresters are working on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will be going to forestry school in Cody.

FAIR BOARD – Dave reported on major events there for fall. They are working on identifying priority projects and how to fund them. The board will try to increase membership in the fairgrounds foundation and raise revenues.

PLAYABLE PLAYGROUND – Stacy reported there is a bit of a lull in projects, but the group is working on an indoor mobile playground.

SCHOOL DISTRICT – none

BIKE HELENA – Pat reported there was another article on Helena in Bike Magazine and Outdoor Monthly magazine. The season is winding down for the year, but the Lewis and Clark County gross lodging tax was the highest ever as was the August occupancy rate.

OTHER -

**COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (BOARD MEMBERS)**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE:** November 5, 2014

**FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**ADJOURN** – 1:02 P.M.

Carol Kirkland  
Recorder

**NOTE: The tobacco-free parks discussion has been rescheduled to the November 19 administrative meeting.**