

# CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

## MINUTES

January 7, 2015

City-County Building, room 426

### CALL TO ORDER

11:39 A.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Payne, Nyle Howson, Ross Johnson, Jane Kollmeyer (arrived late). Pat Doyle and John Carter were excused. Melissa Lewis was absent.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

County Commissioner Susan Good-Geise

### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

### ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

A quorum was not present until Jane arrived later. In the absence of the chair and vice chair, Susan acted as the chairperson.

### CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

The December 3, 2014, minutes were deferred to the February meeting. With Jane's arrival, the December 3, 2014, minutes were approved as presented.

### COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT:

**PRESENTATIONS** – Amy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Sixth Ward Garden Park east of Montana Avenue between Gallatin and Bozeman avenues. Volunteers developed it in the 1940s as the Northern Pacific Park. In 2011 it was proposed to be redeveloped as a community garden. It was then proposed as a permaculture park. Dave Jacke, a well-known ecological expert, came to Helena to conduct a workshop on edible permaculture with Sixth Ward Park as the focus. The concept for the park has been in planning for a year with city parks, Helena Community Gardens, Helena Food Share, and the Sixth Ward neighborhood participating. Stormwater will be captured in a bio-swale in the park for some of the irrigation as a well is not practical because of an underlying solvent plume. Treated water will be used as the main irrigation source. Part of the park will be for community gardens, part for playground, part for a food prep area, part for a gathering spot. There is a potential to have a garden manager who would be paid by the garden group or through donations. Materials used will be environmentally friendly. Funds for the next few years will be gathered through donated materials, volunteer in-kind, city-county in kind, and cash.

PARKS BOARD/2  
January 7, 2015

**DISCUSSION ITEMS** Standing Items: proposed regional park district: Amy noted the presentation to the joint commission where the decision was to put the planning effort on hold for now. There was direction to have the Parks Board do a broader community survey which can then be used for grant applications. Amy noted that there is still an opportunity to enter into cooperative agreements on individual projects.

**ACTION ITEMS:** see Consent Action Items above

**REPORTS:**

CITY – Amy noted the city commission informally approved the tobacco-free park proposal to be heard formally at the February 23 commission meeting. She noted it would be helpful to have someone from the Parks Board speak in support.

COUNTY – Matt reported multiple subdivision applications are in process, and he will report cash in lieu money deposited as it comes in. He also handed out the county parks budget. Nyle asked about the additional \$6500 that was in the budget for mowing for Babe Ruth Baseball and was referred to the county's budget officer.

HOLMAC – Jane reported HOLMAC was putting in for a grant from the Weed Board to treat more weeds.

LINCOLN – Nyle reported the new Lincoln Parks Board is organizing and will meet January 15.

RECREATION – Liz reported the ice rink is open and in full swing and busy. The party room is also being used frequently. Some Big Horn ice hockey players are coming to teach skating on a volunteer basis. The Kay McKenna Youth Foundation dance to raise funds for the summer recreation program is being planned for March. She is also starting to plan for summer activities.

MAINTENANCE – Craig reported staff is working on creating ice rinks and doing snow removal. Forestry has been helping with parks work. Maintenance is working on an action plan to deal with the emerald ash borer should it come to town and also working on a spring tree planting plan. Staff is also creating a standard operating plan (SOP) for snow removal to prioritize sidewalks and trails. Staff is also brooming and flooding ice rinks. He is working on filling a couple of staff vacancies. Jane complimented the maintenance staff on the excellent condition of the Centennial Park trail.

FAIR BOARD – Dave reported the facility is getting quite a bit of activity including school Christmas programs. The budget limits what can be done, but grounds cleanup is being planned.

PLAYABLE PLAYGROUND – Stacy reported upcoming fund raising projects and waiting to hear on KABOOM grants. In addition to the playground fund raising

PARKS BOARD/3  
January 7, 2015

that is already going on, Amy suggested they participate on the Sixth Ward Park playground project.

BIKE HELENA –

SCHOOL DISTRICT –

OTHER -

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

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE:** February 4, 2015

**FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS:** tobacco-free resolution; wells vs. city water; artificial turf

**ADJOURN** – 12:39 P.M.

Carol Kirkland  
Recorder