

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

March 13, 2012

Room 326, City-County Building
5:30 P.M.

Chair Mary Arnold called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Mary Arnold, Melissa Broch, Jane Kollmeyer, Lois Olson, Corey Baker, Scott Mincemoyer (HCC), Brad Langsather, Greta Dige, Dawn North, Andy Baur, Ali

MINUTES

The February 2012 minutes were approved as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After much discussion, Mary will continue as chair, Corey will continue as vice chair, Melissa will continue as secretary until her term ends; and Lois will pick up the job after Melissa's departure. The slate passed unanimously by acclamation.

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Coordinator:

Brad reported the city commission accepted the grant application for the Mount Ascension acquisition with the help of PPLT. Brad distributed the trail plan for 2012 and had Andy review it. Much talking amongst themselves followed. Andy noted it was probably time to review the 2003 South Hills Trails Plan and update it for upcoming work with the Forest Service. He indicated PPLT may not be able to do that. Brad said the social trail report could meld with the updated plan and get worked on intensively this winter. Greta reported the adopt-a-trail committee would be meeting soon and getting the packets ready. People need to get signed up to volunteer. Brad said the trail strike team could be a great help to him as he is overwhelmed with reports of timber on the trails. There was extensive discussion of some of the social trails people have found. It was agreed to have final review and public comment on the 2012 work plan at a regular meeting and then get it the city commission agenda.

Brad reported the trees on the Prickly Pear trail above Beattie are being marketed and that small limbs and branches are being chipped. The project at Limekiln and Lodgepole is finished and will be a grass savannah for a few years because of the extensive tree mortality. (Brad's phone ringing loudly—distracting and sotto voce comment about the minutes recorder)

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Three more units will start in June and also at McKelvey. Open lands activity this summer will be city and NCCC staff. It was noted that the marketing arrangement is cutting per acre costs, creating jobs, cutting the volume of chips, and trying to get the contractor's efficiency up. LIEAP is no longer taking wood, but Food Share is going to let people know of firewood availability, and Narrate Church will deliver directly to recipients March 25. There was discussion of the Entertainment Trail's reseeding project and its unusual appearance.

Weeds: Someone reported something, but it was covered by extensive coughing.

Trails:

Cultural Resources: none

Wildlife: none

Forestry: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 10, 2012

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Carol Kirkland
Recorder