

# HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

November 12, 2013

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

Chair Lois Olsen called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Jim Phillips, Jane Kollmeyer, Lois Olsen, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane, Brad Langsather, Greta Dige, Corey Baker, Torey Keltner (Helena police), Ron Alles (city manager)

### MINUTES

Without a quorum at the last meeting, the September minutes were approved by acclamation. It was noted that the May minutes had not been approved because of the committee's move into the field for the summer. They will be added to the December agenda.

### DISCUSSION

Jim noted the police department began advertising its citizen policing program a few months ago, but there were questions about the use of trail rangers and their responsibilities on the trails. He referenced a document outlining training for potential rangers. Torey noted the volunteers would merely be the eyes and ears of the police department and would not confront. Brad said the volunteers could be a great help to him during the months when he is the only open lands staff person. Jim was asking if HOLMAC was interested in participating and being involved with training volunteers.

**ACTION: Dan moved and Jane seconded a motion that HOLMAC consider a cooperative liaison with the Helena police department to effect training for volunteers on the open lands. Motion carried unanimously.** Jim noted it would help provide consistency of reporting problems on the trails.

Lois noted the subcommittees that used to function probably have not done so for about a year. She wondered if some of them were even needed. She asked the members to think about what they may want to suggest for retaining the subcommittees or not and potential goals. She asked for Brad and Greta to email about what would be helpful to them. Brad noted Scott's term as HCC representative had ended, and a new person should be encouraged to be involved. If members come back in December with no strong feelings about a particular committee, that committee will be dropped.

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**REPORTS**

**Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Coordinator:** Brad noted the rerouting of the Ambrose Trail and a spring project moving a trail at the end of Mount Helena Drive and discussion about moving signs on the trail to eliminate confusion. The archery range trail work is nearly complete. The Saddle Drive route has been preliminarily prepared, and he is still waiting for a bid on the bridge. There was discussion about the Beattie Street parcel fence and development on Westridge.

**Weeds:** Greta reported working on treatment areas for next year and discussed monitoring of bug release sites.

**Trails:** Corey reported he is working with the city and Bike Helena on determining priority areas for putting out signs. He will report more extensively on trails in January. He noted the adopt-a-trail program had been very successful, and signups will be available on the PPLT website. He is also working on a new south hills trail plan draft. Extensive discussion of trails followed.

**Cultural Resources:** none

**Wildlife:** none

**Forestry:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** December 10, 2013

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Carol Kirkland  
Recorder