



City of Helena

CITY-COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY Wednesday, June 7, 2017



City Members

- Pat Doyle
- Ross Johnson
- Steve Baiamonte

County Members

- Dave Payne
- Ken Wallace
- Nyle Howsmon (Lincoln Parks Board)
- Ernie Lundberg (Lincoln Parks Board)

Joint Member

- Kalli Kind, School District Representative

Commission Representatives

- Rob Farris-Olsen, City Commissioner
- Jim McCormick, County Commissioner

Staff Contact

- Matt Heimel, Lewis and Clark County Special Districts Planner
- Amy Teegarden, Parks and Recreation Director
- Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent
- Todd Wheeler, Recreation and Aquatics Program Manager
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 426

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – 11:33 am

Visitor(s): Al Knauber, Cole Funseth, George Theborge, Misty Edwards, Marilyn Greeley, Dana Mark Simonich, Elroy Goleman, Niki Henrikson, Diane Gray

1. Call to Order

Chairman Pat Doyle called the City-County Parks Board Meeting to order at 11:34 am.

2. Establish Quorum/Introductions/Review Agenda/Approval of Minutes

- A quorum was not established; therefore we were unable to vote on the approval of the May minutes.
- There were no additions to the Agenda.

3. Comments from Persons Present

The board will accept brief comments from the public for items that are not on the agenda at this time.

- Representatives from Helena Vision Center asked for time to discuss the Cruse Park issues. Transients are increasing in numbers and causing continual problems. They yell obscenities to passersby. They continue to urinate and defecate in public.

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- Craig stated the maintenance department has trimmed the shrubbery back and pulled the large benches and replaced those with smaller ones in an effort to deter the transients from congregating in the area.
- Representatives from the Helena Vision Center are recommending eliminating the benches completely and removing all shrubbery.
- Craig said the parks department can thin out the vegetation, but does not believe this will solve the problem. We have no law enforcement authority so the only solution as problems occur is to call the police.
- Amy shared that the parks department has collected a full year of data regarding calls for service in our parks. We worked with the Helena PD on this project. Our goal is to see what the issues are and where most of the criminal activities seem to be taking place. In looking at our parks statistics report for the past year, Cruse had 38 calls for assistance. 90% of those calls were citizen initiated complaints. The parks department is doing as much management activity to reduce disruptive behavior.
- Amy feels our next step may need to be having a community conversation about this. The Helena Business District (BID) should be involved as they are the advocates for the downtown businesses. They may be very disturbed to hear that a core downtown business may move the business because of this problem. This issue needs to be elevated beyond the parks department to more of community conversation. Parks will continue to work hard to make these activities less desirable; however, this social problem needs to go before the community. Amy recommended contacting the BID for further discussions.
- Marilyn Greeley of 606 N Jackson presented. Her home borders a parcel that the parks department maintains. She too is having issues with the transient population. When Marilyn presented this issue last year, she suggested fencing the property or selling the property to her. Amy was told that this parcel is public right away. The City Manager and City Engineer do not want to surplus this property. While fencing is an option, it still may not keep people out.
- Marilyn then requested that we mark the boundaries around the parcel and Marilyn will put up a fence. Amy will talk to Public Works about this issue. Craig can talk to Greta about a property line.
- Linda Wilson with the LaCasa Grande Home Owners Association presented.
- Linda visited the parks board last year. At that time, it was recommended that she put together a formal request for assistance for park upgrades which includes the past three year's budget.
- Pat – the parks board is currently looking at a formal process for such requests for funding.
- The last request we received from the LaCasa HOA was assistance with the installation of the sprinkler system in the north park seven years ago. The parks board dedicated \$16,000 for this request.
- George explained that under state statutes, park funds must be used to benefit the recreational needs of the residents of the subdivision from which they were collected. The funds must be spent on parkland development, acquisition or maintenance projects within a reasonably close proximity to the subdivision. Additionally, no more than 50% of the funds from a subdivision's parkland dedication may be used for park maintenance.
 - Linda stated that the HOA has an ongoing maintenance fund which covers expenses to include mowers, sprinklers, and tools, weed control, etc. Currently, there is a walking path in Woodland Park which is ready for laying decomposed granite. They are also hoping to create a dog park in the area next to the playground with disposal receptacles.

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The playground also needs to be replaced (Contact Stacy with Playable Playgrounds – contact is as follows: <http://www.helenasplayableplayground.com/>).

- George stated that the board is in the process of developing criteria and a process for submitting requests to this board. He did recommend that Linda submit a specific request for funding.
- Dave said that once we formalize the plan, we will contact you with specific details on how to move forward. He did say that it may take some time – perhaps August or September. Linda will work on a proposal.
- Todd Wheeler introduced newest parks employee, Cole Funseth. Cole is a Carroll College student majoring in Pediatrics Dentistry. He has been hired as a seasonal employee to assist Todd with Kays Kids. Welcome Cole.

4. Unfinished Business

Parks Report – Amy and Lieutenant Jayson Zander

- Amy requested that Jennifer do a 12-month accumulation report by park. We hope to have this in graph form over the next few months. Centennial Park had the most calls for service followed by Memorial Park, Women’s Park and the Skate Park.
- We did note that May 2017 is down in calls in comparison to May of last year. Of the 708 calls, only 109 were patrol walkthroughs. We found that the citizens aren’t afraid to call. We will continue to track this as we feel two years of data can give us a better glimpse of what is happening.
- We will continue to track
- Jayson stated he is seeing a spike in new transients. One transient in particular has been issued 19 citations. Space at jail is an issue – at this time, they can only accept people with certain charges. The police are issuing violation of city ordinance and/or trespass citations.
- Because God’s Love is at capacity, the transients move to the parks.
- The police department is doing what they can and the city prosecutor is prosecuting as much as possible
- Amy then said as this is a “community issue”; we will reach out to the BID and ask for an elevated community conversation to include the police department.
- We will continue to monitor stats and call the police.

Indoor Recreation Facility Update – HRSA

- Amy stated she received an email from the HRSA representative. They are having an all-day planning session tomorrow and hope to present to this board in July.

5. Presentations/Discussion Items

ADA Transition Plan – Elroy Goleman/Craig Marr

- Elroy Goleman is the City of Helena ADA Coordinator. His contact information is as follows:
H. Elroy Goleman, CADAP
Community Development Department
316 North Park Avenue.
Helena, MT 59623
Email: citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov
Phone: (406) 447-8490, or 711 (MT Relay)
Fax: (406) 447-8460

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- The contact for Lewis and Clark County is Aaron Douglas.
- The City of Helena’s first self-evaluation and Transition Plan was completed in 1993. As part of the compliance effort, the existing barrier assessment was completed, a grievance procedure was implemented, an ADA Coordinator was designated, and elements of the plan were put in place. However, since the adoption of the 1993 Transition Plan many changes to city facilities, parks and rights-of-way have occurred. The new Transition Plan will replace the current Transition Plan adopted in 1993, and will be used to help guide future planning and implementation of necessary accessibility improvements.
- As part of this federally mandated plan, cities are required to conduct self-evaluations of all city facilities, programs, and parks.
- Parks were left out of transition plans in the early stages. Title 2 now affects parks owned by federal, state, county and local government.
- The cost for upgrades will be approximately \$4.7 million dollars.
- Elroy stated we need to continually educate city/county staff by attending ADA trainings.
- Any new parks will have to go through our ADA exercise.
- This will be a gradual process. It is recommended that this is completed within an 11 year period.
- In the evaluation of the parks it was determined that there is approximately 5000 items that need to be addressed.
- The transition plan will be reviewed annually and published so committees and the public know what has been completed.
- Craig added the parks constructed after 2010 and parks included in phase 1 and 2 of the transition plan are the top priorities.
- Maintenance of accessible routes and playground surfaces will be a top priority for daily maintenance activities.
- For more information on the City of Helena ADA Transition Plan, please go to: <http://www.helenamt.gov/cd/planning/americans-with-disabilities-act-ada.html>

CivicRec Software Demonstration – Todd Wheeler

- Todd gave a presentation on the new CivicRec software. People wanting to sign up for recreation and aquatics activities can now do so online.
- In looking at the sight, Todd stated he will get with Elroy to include verbiage regarding ADA requirements.
- The department generated \$20,000 last week. During the first 18 hours of sign up, we generated \$14,000 in revenue.
- Our next step will be to add online registration for park reservations.

6. Action Items

As there was no quorum, we were unable to vote on action items. They will be carried over to next month’s agenda.

- Approval of the County Budget – Nancy Everson
 - Hooper Park Public Water Disinfection System – Misty Edwards/Ernie Lundberg
- Possible Action Items Include:
1. Approve the expenditure of all or a portion of the requested funds.
 2. Deny the requested expenditure from the Lincoln Development Fund; or

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- 3. Request additional information from the Lincoln Parks Board and/or County staff prior to making a decision.
- Recommendation regarding Proposed Amendments to the Lewis and Clark County Parks and Recreation Plan – George Theborge

7. Reports

City	Amy Teegarden	Parks	Craig Marr
County	Matt Heimel	Fair Board	Pat Doyle
HOLMAC	Dave Payne	Playgrounds	Stacy Sommer
Lincoln Parks Board	Nyle Howsmon	School District	Kalli Kind
Recreation	Todd Wheeler		

City – Amy

- Amy – received report from Montana Preservation Association giving us some other options regarding restoration efforts of the Fire Tower. The review of their report has triggered more questions so Amy has reached out to the Heritage Tourism Alliance for clarification which will help the city in decisions regarding the Fire Tower.
- We are participating in the Wayfinding signs demonstration project.
- Amy is working on a MOU with a Veteran’s group in Helena regarding the Veteran’s Memorial at Memorial Park.
- Bill Roberts Golf Course is moving forward with the new pro shop and clubhouse.
- Trail counters have been placed at Mount Helena. In the last 2 weeks, ticked off 15,000 counts. It is our goal to improve amenities at our trailheads and the trail counters provide us some very relevant information.

County – George

- George – at the last meeting George was asked if it is necessary for the parks board to request a public hearing when deciding on funding requests. After doing some research, it was determined that a public hearing is not required.
- To ensure compliance with state laws, we will most likely have the planning board hold a public hearing at some point.
- Included with our draft plan, is a sample of Missoula’s process and timelines.
- George stated he submitted his proposed budget to the county commission which includes the \$25,000 to hire a consultant to assist with updating the county park plan. Amy added the \$25,000 in her proposed budget as well.

Lincoln County Parks Board – Ernie

- Not much to report. We do have a host in the park now. We have been getting intermittent use.

Recreation – Todd

- Todd – the pool will open June 19th. Todd has been busy training staff. There are a few mechanical issues we are working on.

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- Kays Kids summer youth program begins June 12th. We have expanded our capacity. The Kay McKenna Foundation has provided additional funding.
- All three Kay's Kids sites will be participating in the Feed'N'Fun program providing free lunches to local youth!
- Tennis will begin June 19th.

Parks Maintenance – Craig

- Parks maintenance has been very busy with mowing, aeration, irrigation, etc.
- The Dog Park will be closed this week for maintenance.
- Centennial ball fields are closed from June 1 – June 11th for aeration and rest.
- All seasonal employees have been hired.
- The maintenance department is doing significant work on the walking mall.
- Urban Forestry has been busy due to the storm damage on the weekend.
- Craig stated we removed a transient camp - it took eight truck loads totaling over 2000 pounds of junk.

Fair Board – Pat

- The fair board is gearing up for the fair.
- Board members went on a facilities tour. They toured 6-7 buildings.

HOLMAC – Dave

- HOLMAC is looking at trail extension – entertainment with 2006 MCC working on this

8. Communications and Future Agenda Items (Board Members)

- Move action items to future agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date: July 12, 2017 at the 6th Ward Garden Park.

10. Adjournment

ADA NOTICE

The City of Helena is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The City will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them the City's services, programs, or activities.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the City's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Elroy Golemon, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: (406) 447- 8490 , 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 440, Helena, MT 59623; TTY Relay Service [1-800-253-4091](tel:1-800-253-4091) or 711, citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov,

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