



**CITY-COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
SUMMARY
Wednesday, March 7, 2018**



City of Helena

City Members

- Pat Doyle
- Ross Johnson
- Steve Baiamonte

County Members

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

Joint Member

- Kalli Kind, School District Representative

Commission Representatives

- Heather O'Loughlin, City Commissioner
- Susan Good-Geise, County Commissioner

Staff Contact

- Lewis and Clark County Representative
- Amy Teegarden, Parks and Recreation Director
- Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent
- Recreation and Aquatics Program Manager
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 426

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Visitor(s): Ron Waterman, Peggy Stringer

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Pat Doyle called the City-County Parks Advisory Board meeting to order at 11:37 am.

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

- Chairman Pat Doyle established a quorum.
- Amy made one change to the agenda. She asked that we add "Parks Bylaws" to presentations and discussion. All agreed.
- After review of the February 7, 2018 minutes, Susan moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

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.

- Peggy Stringer of HRSA invited board members to attend the upcoming HRSA meeting on Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the large meeting room at the Lewis and Clark Public Library.
- Peggy thanked Amy and the parks board for ongoing support of this project. HRSA will move forward with fundraising efforts.

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4. Unfinished Business

- None.

5. Presentations/Discussion Items

The Equity Fountain Project – Ron Waterman

- Ron Waterman is a resident in the city of Helena. He is representing a wide group of individuals seeking to refinish the existing Hill Park fountain with a new work of art – one that celebrates equity and equality, diversity and respect, generosity, compassion, tolerance, service, peace and justice.
- Ron, Amy and Ron Alles met to discuss this project. The Public Arts Council is also aware and in support of this project.
- Ron has been collaborating with a group of local architects and artists to create a schematic of what a new design could look like. They are also working on the feasibility of the design. Currently, there is no other public effort to replace the fountain. He stated that the committee is not limiting the project to just the local artistic community. They have reached out to the Montana Arts Council who has recommended we do a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to artists through the following website:
[https://www.callforentry.org/festivals.php?row\[fair_type\]=12&apply=yes](https://www.callforentry.org/festivals.php?row[fair_type]=12&apply=yes)
- The website is CaFÉ – CallForEntry.org. This website is a national electronic bulletin board.
- The goal of the committee is to have the qualifications submitted by end of this month and from that list, select three individuals and ask each of them to prepare a design and submit for review. The Equity Fountain group will provide a small stipend for their efforts. From this effort, the committee will select the design to be brought forward for approval.
- Ron stated the next step will be to present the design for approval to the parks board as well as the Art Council. Ultimately, the final design will be presented to the city commission as a gift to the City of Helena and the citizens/future citizens of Helena.
- Ron is in the fundraising phase of this project. Ron has told artists that they should anticipate a cost of \$75,000. Ron has a fundraising goal of \$100,000.
- There is a possibility of funds in excess of construction costs could be donated back to the parks maintenance department so the city has the necessary resources to maintain the new structure.
- In the call to artists, Ron has reminded them that this structure needs to be something that can withstand Montana weather with minimal maintenance expense.
- Ron hopes to have a design to present to city and public arts council and then to the commission sometime in the fall of 2018 with construction beginning in 2019. He is hoping for an unveiling of the piece in late summer of 2019. Once Ron sees a design, he will ask the city if the Equity Fountain Project can put up a sign at the existing location indicating “Coming Soon – Equity Fountain Project Structure” to include a contact point.
- Ron has had a good response from individuals throughout the community.
- He intends to begin a more private fundraising campaign with the hopes of raising ½ of the funding before going public.
- The goal by the end of March is to raise \$50,000 in pledges.
- Susan thanked Ron for his efforts. She asked if there was any other group that may have a different idea. What if another group comes up with competing design? Ron stated the

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Helena Arts Council has had many discussions about this project. The idea in using public artists was that this will give the public the opportunity to comment on the design. Ron has coordinated with the Helena Public Arts Council. They had a subcommittee review the proposal and all were in favor of moving forward.

- Amy agreed and stated that the city has not been contacted by any other groups. She added that we will be able to review the artistic design and functionality. The city commission will make the ultimate decision.
- For questions or comments, please contact Ron at Ronwaterman530@gmail.com. If anyone would like to make pledges to the project, contact Ron via email.
- Ron added that he is working with the group to become a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Parks Board Bylaws – Amy

- Two years ago we reviewed and updated the City-County Parks Board Bylaws. Amy would like to propose we review them once again. There have been concerns about voting members unable to attend meetings regularly. Unfortunately due to absences we have not had a quorum for voting purposes.
- The Commissioners are non-voting members. Voting membership includes: three city representatives, three county representatives, and the school district representative. Ken Wallace has resigned his position as a county representative due to travelling so we will need to re-advertise for his position. The representative from the school district has been unable to attend. Ross agreed and asked if there is someone else that could come in place of Kali when she is unable to attend. He added he is concerned of her ability to attend in light of all the new construction happening within the school district.
- Susan then recommended we reach out to another representative from the school district who could perhaps take turns in attending the meeting. **Amy stated she will reach out to Kali again.**
- Dave also expressed concern that we are not getting regular county representation at this meeting. County staff representation is equally important. **Susan stated she will work with the planning department.** With the new leadership we need to reemphasize the importance of these meetings. Amy did state that Lindsey and the new director are attending meetings this week.
- Amy is hopeful that when starting our comprehensive planning effort, we will see consistent engagement at the board meetings.

6. Action Items

- None.

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	Vacant	HRSA	Peggy Stringer

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City – Amy

- Amy updated the board on the city and county contracts with GreenPlay. GreenPlay is the planning consultants hired to review the City-County comprehensive planning effort. We are still waiting for signatures on the county contract. The goal is to have a conference call where a timeline will be discussed. Amy would like to present said timeline at the City-County Parks Board meeting in April.
- The city, in partnership with MTRPA (Montana Trails Recreation Parks Association) will be hosting the statewide conference in Helena on October 15, 16, 17, 2018. Planning partners include: the City of Helena Parks and Recreation Department, Lewis and Clark County Health, PPLT (Prickly Pear Land Trust), Helena Tourism, Montana State Parks, and the Montana Trails Coalition.
- Fire Tower Update: due to a disagreement of approach on how to reclaim the Fire Tower with the Friends of the Fire Tower, the city has opted to allow the Friends of the Fire Tower to take the leadership role in this process. The city will provide a supportive role. We are in the process of developing a MOU with the Friends of the Fire Tower at this time. Friends of the Fire Tower will figure out how to design, engineer, and fund the project.
- Last week Amy presented at the joint work session the concept of the Helena Trails Steering Committee. Both the city and the county commissions gave consensus direction to bring a joint resolution of intention forward.
- We had two open house meetings regarding the Beattie Street Trailhead project. All public comments were to be submitted by yesterday. Amy is meeting with staff and reviewing the comments and will incorporate suggestions into a revised alternative for the parking lot at the end of Beattie Street. We will provide this information to HOLMAC and then present it to the city commission for consideration.
- Cherry Park Update: Last fall a representative from Kiwanis presented to this board the concept for an ADA playground project at Cherry Park. In December, the Kiwanis launched a \$70,000 campaign. They are nearly at their target. They will be able to use these funds as a match to a LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) Grant which Amy is preparing to submit by the end of March.
- Bill Roberts Golf Course: We are under construction for a new clubhouse and expanded pro shop. We hope to have the new facility open by June 1, 2018. This will be a year round sports club, restaurant (Muni's Sports Grille) and will house three simulators for year-round play.
- We are struggling with filling the Aquatics and Recreation Manager Position. The department will be meeting to discuss how to staff our programs for this summer.
- Through the downtown master plan, the City of Helena is working on zoning efforts as well as looking at different city properties to surplus. Constitution Park and Performance Square are two of the properties being evaluated. We need to do research on the deeds (to include deed restrictions). These areas are being looked at for a "Downtown Marlow Market". Both of these parcels were not dedicated through park land.
- Some of the downtown businesses through the master planning efforts and MBAC (Montana Business Assistance Connection) have looked at the need for providing market services in the downtown area. The concept could include a small grocery store. 7th Avenue Gym has also been identified as an area to look at as well. It would be similar to urban markets like Pike Place Market in Seattle. This effort is in discussion and research mode at this time. Any formal

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proposals will be brought to the parks board for consideration. Ross – are they looking at any other parcels? Amy stated they are looking at a very condensed area in downtown Helena.

- We have stopped collecting calls for service in the parks at this time. We will address some of the issues we reviewed through our comprehensive parks plan. Jayson will continue to attend the City-County Parks Board meetings.

County – Susan

- Susan stated she sent a message to Peter recommending he make certain there is consistent county staff representation at this meeting.
- Susan stated she is working on getting the Sierra Parks Board reengaged.
- As discussed at the last meeting, when we look at subdivision regulation, we will need to reevaluate cash in lieu in an effort to make a significant difference within the county.
- The county welcomes their new Weed Coordinator, Christian Lehnert.

HOLMAC – Dave

- Beattie Street Trailhead is a hot topic. This is being presented as a part of the open lands work plan for this year. The work plan generated many comments this year. It has been decided to pull the Beattie Street project from the work plan in order to get approval from the commission on the rest of the proposal. The rest of the plan will be presented to the commission this month.
- Vegetation projects are being discussed as well to include weed treatment projects, etc.
- Pat stated the comments were very interesting. It is clear that we need to manage for change and growth.

Lincoln – Ernie

- Ernie visited with Misty about the bathroom contract. The RFP (Request for Proposal) went out again on Monday and hope to have proposals back by the first of April.
- The legal department is now involved in the process to recover money from the company out of Idaho that was initially awarded the contract.

Parks – Craig

- Parks department is still working on snow removal. Ice rinks are still being utilized by the community.
- Staff is working on getting equipment ready for summer use.
- With the nicer weather, the department is working on litter, garbage, and basic cleanup of city parks.
- Craig stated that someone broke into a car that was parked in front of the shop. He reminded the board to lock vehicles.
- The parks department is working on improvements at Batch Fields. They are specifically working on the restrooms and the concessions area. This has allowed us the opportunity to bring some of the facility into ADA compliance.
- The parks department has been working with the HR department on a safety incentive program. The goal is to make staff more aware of unsafe conditions. There is a point system in place and the winner will get clothing with the city parks and recreation logo. This is a pilot program with HR. The objective is to increase awareness.
- Craig stated seasonal jobs are now posted.

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- We have received multiple requests from the school district to do snow removal from tennis courts and ball fields. We have denied these requests as there is a risk of damaging the courts and turf.
- Craig and Amy met with staff at the Capital to discuss shared issues and opportunities.

Fair Board – Pat

- The fairgrounds staff are preparing for summer.
- They have experienced some concessions issues that they are working through.
- Pat announced that there are openings on the fair board.

Playgrounds – Stacy

- Amy shared that the Playable Playground Tea Party that was held at the Civic Center sold out.

8. Communications and Future Agenda Items (Board Members)

- Update on Comprehensive Parks Plan

9. Next Meeting Date: May 2, 2018

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the City-County Parks Board adjourned at 12:43 pm.

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Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the County's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact Aaron Douglas, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: (406) 447-8316, 316 North Park Avenue, Room 303, Helena, MT 59623; ; TTY Relay Service [1-800-253-4091](tel:1-800-253-4091) or 711, adouglas@lccountymt.gov.

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