



City of Helena

# CITY-COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY

Wednesday, November 2, 2016



### 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

- Rob Farris-Olsen, City Commissioner
- ~~Andy Hunthausen, County Commissioner~~

### Staff Contact

- ~~Kevin Hamilton, Deputy Director, Lewis and Clark County Community Development and Planning~~
- 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

**Visitor(s):** Cory Baily, Brad Langsather, Al Knauber, Dave Smith, Chas VanGenderen

### Call to Order

- Vice Chairman, Pat Doyle called the City-County Parks Board Meeting to order at 11:32 am.

### Establish Quorum/Review Agenda/Introductions/Review Minutes

- Vice Chairman, Pat Doyle established a quorum. There were no changes to the agenda.
- The board welcomed new member, Steve Baiamonte. Steve is the Administrator for the General Services Division for the Department of Administration. Prior to his work with the DOA, Steve was a State Trooper for 23 years. Steve will serve as a city representative.
- The board welcomed Ernie Lundberg. Ernie will be attending these meetings during the winter months while Nyle is away.
- With no corrections, Ross moved to approve the October 5, 2016 minutes. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

### Comments from Persons Present

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

- None.

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## **Unfinished Business**

### Review City-County Parks Board Bylaws

- Jennifer stated that Ross emailed a suggestion to change the wording under Article III. The two noted options are highlighted under Article III – Membership. The advisory board reviewed the two options.
- Both Ross and Pat liked the reference to the policy (option 1).
- With no further comments, Ross moved to approve the bylaws with the addition of “Option 1”. Dave seconded. Motioned carried. The bylaws are now approved.

### Indoor Recreation Facility Update – HRSA

- Amy – HRSA continues to meet on second Mondays of each month. The committee is working to complete the feasibility study.
- Dave Smith with the YMCA stated he had a conversation with one of the members and was informed that the committee members are starting to get numbers back on 3 proposals.
- They are still looking for locations.

### Parks Report – Amy and Cory

- Cory stated there were 61 calls for service. Many of the calls pertained to extra walkthroughs. Jennifer asked for clarification of the total number of calls for service. She will make adjustments to the report based on Cory’s explanation.
- Ross stated he feels it would be of additional value if the time of day of the occurrence is included in the report. One of the things this board is reviewing is the notion of potential park hours.
- Cory – right now it is broken down for call of service. He will check with IT to see if this is information we can capture.
- The biggest issue he noted this month was the criminal mischief offenses at BRGC.
- Dave asked for the reasoning behind the skate park being separate from Centennial Park. The police department took the list of all parks and determined it would be beneficial to have the skate park as separate.

## **Presentations/Discussion Items**

### Animal Control Parks Calls – Mike Maynard, Animal Control Officer

- Mike Maynard has been the Helena Animal Control Officer for 15 years. He was asked to discuss the calls for service as they relate to animal control.
- Mike stated that most people in the city of Helena follow the city ordinances with regards to their animals. Most of the calls in the park are initiated by an animal control officer. The calls usually pertain to leash law violations. When citizens call in, those calls are usually because of a dog at large.
- Centennial Park gets the majority of the animal control calls (which can be attributed to access to the dog park).
- Pat Doyle asked how many calls animal control receives from the south hills area (to include Mt. Helena and Mt. Ascension). Mike stated that is minimal. They get a few calls – usually dogs that have gotten loose and are chasing wildlife.

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- Amy – in regards to the Dog Park, are you seeing more need to be at Centennial Park because of the dog park, or more people abiding the ordinance because of Dog Park. Mike said that because we are providing a fenced area, violations of the city ordinance has decreased. It has been nice to have an area to tell people to go to.
- Amy then stated that we appreciate animal control presence in the park.

Charting a New Tomorrow for Montana State Parks – Chas VanGenderen, State Parks Director – Presenter

- Amy – Chas is the Director of Montana State Parks. Chas and Amy have worked together in numerous capacities and Amy has invited Chas to do a presentation on planning for state parks.
- Montana State Parks have been going through a lot of changes. The park system has experienced considerable growth. With 2.8 million visits each year, Montana’s 55 state parks are a vital part of the quality of life that all residents enjoy. Montana also has 7 national historic landmarks and 4 statewide recreational grant programs. These programs are funded through a Recreational Trails Program grant (RTP), a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stateside grant, the OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) grant program, and the Montana Snowmobile grant program. Chas’ staff of 61 employees manages these grants.
- Chas gave a history of Montana State Parks. There has been a 32% increase in visits to our state parks from 2011 to 2015. Visitation of state parks has increased, but funding is not adequately meeting needs. There are challenges at the federal, state, and local level.
- Chas then reviewed Montana State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. This plan serves as a guiding framework for management of the park system and statewide recreational programs through 2020 to address longstanding challenges. With the goals set forth in this Strategic Plan, the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board hopes for fulfill the mission managing these significant, relevant, and accessible places for Montana citizens and their guests to enjoy. For a complete copy of the Strategic Plan, please go to: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/about-us/strategicPlan.html>.
- Amy stated that one of the functions of this board in looking at dedicated park land is the decision of accepting cash-in-lieu or dedication. The concern remains on how we will maintain the property long term. This discussion brings us back to the need for a regional park district. If we were managing our parks on a larger scale with multiple partners, we could be more efficient, relevant, and significant. People would get the service they expect.
- Chas stated he would be available to attend our meetings when invited.

**Action Items**

Approval of City-County Parks Board Bylaws

- After brief discussion, the City-County Parks Board voted unanimously to approve the bylaws using the following verbiage under Article III – Membership:  
**Each member of the City-County Parks Board listed above is appointed according to the policy governing the relevant level of government. Issues such as nominating and appointing procedures, length of terms, and term limits are set by the City and/or County Commissions. To review the complete city policy, please go to:**

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- <http://www.helenamt.gov/departments/commission/boards-and-committees>.
- To review the complete county policy, please go to:
- [http://www.lccountymt.gov/fileadmin/user\\_upload/BoCC/Boards/Resolution\\_2011-191.pdf](http://www.lccountymt.gov/fileadmin/user_upload/BoCC/Boards/Resolution_2011-191.pdf).

## Reports

City	Amy Teegarden	Parks	Craig Marr
County	Kevin Hamilton	Fair Board	Dave Payne
HOLMAC	Vacant	Playgrounds	Stacy Sommer
Lincoln Parks Board	Nyle Howsmon	School District	Kalli Kind
Recreation	Todd Wheeler		

### City – Amy

- Amy distributed a memo regarding the Fire Tower fire damage. After the completion of an initial investigation, it has been determined that it is unsafe to be in or near to the Fire Tower. Therefore, we will be unable to put lights on the Fire Tower. However, we are partnering with the BID to provide a lighting system for the Parade of Lights event. We have hired Morrison-Maierle to do a structural analysis of the Fire Tower. Once this is finalized, we will work with community partners to launch a crowd fundraising campaign. Amy hopes to have a report by the end of this year.
- We are working on a meeting with the school district representatives to discuss concerns of field use, the possibility of proposing a boundary line at Lincoln Park, and recommendations for Ramey Park and other parks that function close to schools.
- Parks and Recreation staff is evaluating our current fee structure. We will attempt to make a presentation on this in December as some of our recommendations will need to go to the Commission for approval.
- We are applying for a VISTA volunteer for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Garden Park. The focus of the VISTA would be to help create a sustainable management coalition with trained volunteers.
- City has completed a self-evaluation for ADA compliance. We have a transition plan which gives us an overview of parks. Amy would like to give the Parks Board an overview of parks and facilities.
- We will also schedule a meeting with American Legion representatives and Brewers to discuss baseball.

### County – Matt Heimel

- Matt – we have a couple projects in the county open lands program that have public access. The Specimen Creek Trail Project has already been approved by the county commission. This is 240 acres at the canyon creek wildlife management area that would be transferred over to the state as fishing and hunting access site.
- Lincoln Community River Park Acquisition Project - \$85,000 has been approved to fund the property acquisition. The consideration of transactional costs is ongoing, and will be considered at a public hearing on November 29, 2016.

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## **HOLMAC**

- No report.

## **Lincoln Parks Board – Nyle**

- Nyle stated they are still waiting on the completion of bathrooms. This project may not be finalized until next spring.
- Nyle will be leaving the state for the winter months. Ernie Lundberg will serve as the interim representative for the Lincoln Parks Board.

## **Parks – Craig**

- The parks department is finalizing the winterization of the irrigation systems. They are also doing late fall weed spraying.
- They have moved into the new shop and are working on a fencing project to get done this fall.
- Craig is already looking at capital needs for the next budget cycle.
- Craig is finalizing a Trail Management Plan project. He hopes to give a presentation at one of the future board meetings.
- Staff of the Licensed Establishment Program of Lewis and Clark Public Health presented the third annual “Gold and Silver Buoy Awards” October 27, 2016, to several facilities for their exceptional efforts to maintain clean, safe, and healthy swimming pools and spa environments. Rod Feistner, our certified pool operator won the Golden Buoy Award for the management of the splash deck, and the Silver Buoy Award for the 50-meter pool and leisure pool.

## **Recreation – Todd**

- Per Amy - Todd has been researching reservation software programs for reserving and scheduling to implement for next year.

## **Open Lands – Brad Langsather**

- Open lands has been wrapping up last items on annual trail maintenance program with Prickly Pear Land Trust.
- Brads crew has been placing signage out in the trail system replaced before winter comes.
- Forestry projects – working above Parks Street and the top of Mt. Helena. Hope to have wrapped up next week. Brad also has a crew working up between McKelvey Trail and the west side of Mt. Helena. These projects are weather dependent.
- Brad is trying to move into the new building as well.

## **Fairgrounds – Dave**

- Dave announced that he did attend the last HOLMAC meeting. He asked for clarification on how we make decisions on who serves on various boards and when they start. Amy stated that serving on a board is done so on a volunteer basis. The start date of a new member is based on when the liaison position is vacated.

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- Dave asked if we are still waiting on another appointment on this board. Pat Doyle said that we still need another county representative.
- In terms of the Fair Board, we now have 169 members on the foundation. The foundation currently has \$18,000.
- The board has been meeting to identifying some fundraising efforts.
- There is a member of board who has been working on a questionnaire to determine the economic impact that the fairgrounds has on the city.
- There won't be a meeting in December, but will still meet in November.

#### **Other**

- Amy met with Heidi O'Brien from Helena Tourism Alliance and they are submitting an application to the Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR) based out of U of M Missoula. They are very close to working with ITRR on an economic analysis of our trail system.

#### **Communications and Future Agenda Items (Board Members)**

None.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the City-County Parks Board meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

#### **ADA NOTICE**

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 TTY Relay Service [1-800-253-4091](tel:1-800-253-4091) or 711  
[citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov](mailto:citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov)  
 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 440, Helena, MT 59623

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