



**CITY-COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA
Wednesday, September 6, 2017**



City of Helena

City Members

- Pat Doyle *excused*
- 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
- Jayson Zander, Police Department Representative
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 426

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Visitor(s): **Mark Brooke, Misty Edwards, Deb Grebenc, Evan Kulesa, PPLT, Greg McNally, Stacy Sommer, Ben Tintinger, Rich Whitney**

• **Call to Order**

- The September 6, 2017 City-County Parks Board Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

• **Establish Quorum/Introductions/Review Agenda/Approval of Minutes**

- Vice Chairman Dave Payne established a quorum.
- Approval of: July 12, 2017 Minutes
 - Ken Wallace asked for clarification regarding the Hooper Park Project. Is the design completed as stated in the minutes? Misty stated yes.
 - With no further questions, Ken moved to approve the July 12, 2017 minutes as presented. Ross 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.

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- Evan Kulesa provided an update from PPLT (Prickly Pear Land Trust). Evan is the trails coordinator.
- Evan provided a handout featuring accomplishments from this past year.
 - They constructed a 1.1-mile sustainable contour trail from 2006 to Entertainment trail on Mount Ascension City Park. Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager, will be completing a bridge.
 - The PPLT “Adopt a Trail” Program has engaged more than 40 individuals and groups who are responsible for identifying trail maintenance concerns and suggestions for improvement. Thanks to these volunteers, downed and hazard trees have been removed, weed infestations have been identified and passed along to the land managers for remediation, and maintenance needs have been identified.
 - Just on city open lands, PPLT has completed 344 hours of volunteer labor. PPLT has been able to receive and supervise MCC crews for 279 hours of donated labor. The value of this volunteer labor totals almost \$13,000.
 - PPLT also has trail counters out on trails – this is being done in partnership with Helena Tourism Alliance and the city and PPLT. This project is being done to gather data on the economic impact of our trails. In spring 2017, there were 14,000 users per month on Mount Helena trailhead.
 - Amy stated she is tentatively scheduled to meet with Helena Tourism Alliance to discuss the status/results of the survey.
 - Evan added that PPLT Just launched a new website on September 1st. The newsletter will be on the web as well.
 - The PPLT Newsletter is on web as well. Please visit PPLT at:
 - <http://pricklypearlt.org/>
 - http://pricklypearlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/PPLTnews_sum17_WEB.pdf

- **Unfinished Business**

- Indoor Recreation Facility Update – HRSA

- Deb Grebenc provided an update of the Helena Regional Sports Association proposed facility. The committee is currently looking at potential sites for the new sports facility. HRSA has completed the economic impact analysis of what an indoor recreation facility may look like (see: <http://helenasports.org/category/community-outreach/>).
 - Ben Tintinger of Mosaic Architecture provided a presentation regarding potential sites for this facility. They have looked at several different sites around the region including East Helena. The number one site is Centennial Park. HRSA and Mosaic have begun conversations with the YMCA on how they can partner with the YMCA on this project. They are also discussing how to refine what a building program may be.
 - There are a couple concerns that still need to be addressed: 1. how do we deal with the limitations in the area by the YMCA, and 2. the mitigation of the garbage fill.
 - Members of HRSA and Mosaic met with representatives from Hydrometrics. Hydrometrics has been monitoring and have mitigated various areas around this site. They have come up with a number of things that seem to be working including trenches that have been put in place along the Carroll College site that help keep migration of the gas from moving south to the west.

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- After discussion with Hydrometrics, it was decided that HRSA could install a system much like a radon system you would put in your house. They would put vented perforated pipe around the building and actively and passively vent that gas.
- By building a new building, Ben feels we can actually improve the situation that is there right now and it wouldn't be as costly as once thought.
- Ben then reviewed the facility and amenities. What they are working on now is how to make this facility fit on the site they are recommending. They are working with SMA Architects to see how to make this work on the YMCA site.
- They have a conceptual plan which will keep the Skate Park where it is currently located.
- The YMCA has procured a grant to do the preliminary architectural study of this site. Ben will continue working with Tim Meldrum from SMA Architects as well as the YMCA Board.
- Dave stated the board was told of three alternatives ranging from low, medium, to high costs. Does this recommendation fit into one of the three categories? Ben said that with the passing of the school bonds, there will be three new full-sized gyms in our community. The plans for the new sports facility will now include two gyms that open into one large one and the inclusion of a good indoor turf field (option 2B).
- Deb added that the YMCA is enamored with this site for various reasons. It is centrally located between the schools. Currently, the monitoring system that protects the YMCA is costly to run. The site has obvious mitigation issues, but there are many benefits to building this facility in Centennial Park.
- Ben then reminded everyone that moving forward this will be a partnership not only between HRSA and the YMCA, but also the city, the county, and the Parks Board. The next site suggested is the HYSA site by the airport.
- Timelines and next steps: The YMCA has funding for the PAR (Preliminary Architectural Report) which they want done by December. The PAR will define the conceptual design of the building and the costs associated with that.
- HRSA will continue with regular updates to the City-County Parks Board.

Parks Report – Amy and Lieutenant Jayson Zander

- The board reviewed two months of reports: June and July, 2017.
- We've seen an increase of calls for service from last year by almost 100. Now that we have collected 14 months of data, we are seeing a pattern. Based on public comments from the last meeting, we discussed reviewing the memo dated March 2016 – Park Safety Information Gathering. While we don't have time today, **Amy recommended we add this as an agenda item for discussion at the October meeting.**
- Jayson stated that currently the police department is seeing more of status quo. We have experienced problems in some parks more than others.
- Amy publically thanks the Helena Police Department for their presence at Hill Park during the removal of the fountain. We were able to accomplish this work without incident.
- Dave – if board should decide to recommend park hours in our parks, this will be an action item – correct? Amy suggested our approach should be to have discussion at the October meeting and then offer direction to the city staff or directions of an action item to be voted on at in the following month.
- Dave suggested we move this to the next meeting.
- We now have 14 months of data to review.

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- Ross suggested we take the data we have collected and summarize it by severity of call and location.
- Jennifer, Jayson, and Amy will work on this.
- Currently, the report includes city and county parks. We didn't include Hooper Park as that is not patrolled by the City of Helena.
- **This will be listed as a discussion item for the October meeting.**

- **Action Items**

Hooper Park Public Water Disinfection System – Misty Edwards/Nyle Howsmon

Possible Action Items Include:

- Approve the expenditure of all or a portion of the requested funds.
- Deny the requested expenditure from the Lincoln Development Fund; or
- Request additional information from the Lincoln Parks Board and/or County staff prior to making a decision.

Misty presented for the County.

- The Lincoln Parks Board is currently undergoing two improvement projects at Hooper Park; a new restroom/shower facility and a public water disinfection system project. The restroom/shower facility is being partially funded by a Department of Commerce Tourism Infrastructure grant with the match for the grant being provided by the County Commission. The disinfection system project needs to be funded by the Lincoln Parks. A preliminary estimate from Drake Water Technologies estimates materials and labor at a cost of approximately \$9,000. The County Commission has currently contracted with Drake Water Technologies for \$26,974 for the engineering and design of the system.
- The county is asking for the balance of the Lincoln Parks Development Fund (\$4,815) to complete this project.
- Misty assured the board that this money will strictly go to the development of the park, not maintenance.
- Ross moved to approve the proposal of \$4,815 for the funding of the Hooper Park water system as recommended. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

- **Presentations/Discussion Items**

Jim Darcy Campus Improvements – Mark Brooke, PE, PG – Morrison Maierle

- With the passing of the school district bond, Mark Brooke is the Engineer working with the school district on the Jim Darcy campus. They have engaged the county to look at three parcels that are dedicated as open space parcels. The county did accept those three parcels as open space parcels. The homeowners association has the ability to collect funds for those parcels, but there is no money dedicated.
- The school district approached the county to see if they could make some minor improvements such as turf grass, landscaping and fencing around those three lots and incorporate that into programming usage for the Jim Darcy campus. This seems amenable with the county's plan. The county recommended that Mark present to this board.
- Kali added that they would gate this area similar to Lincoln Park and develop it so it can be used by the students of Jim Darcy.

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- There is an easement on one of these lots so the neighborhood kids can walk to school. The area will predominately be open green space.
- Kali then stated that they are at a point in this project where they need to plan and budget for the project. Dave asked if there is somewhere in the plan when they could potentially develop the area with some playground equipment. Kali stated anything is possible. There is not the intent to put any structures in the area at this time.
- Amy likes the idea as it will help take away some of the impact from teams wanting to use soccer fields in the parks. There is definitely a recreational benefit to this.
- Ross – is there funding from the school district to provide maintenance to this property? Kali stated that if the school district develops this property, they will have to maintain it. Kali added that the school district will want a formal agreement should this take place.
- Ross asked if the county has concerns about this type of agreement. Greg McNally stated this would be an agreement similar to Sierra Park.
- Greg added that from a historical perspective, the three lots in question today were originally dedicated as county park land as part of the subdivision review process. This board heard that proposal in 2010. At that time, the developer asked that we just do cash in lieu. This board voted to support both cash in lieu and land dedication. Approximately 1.76 acres of land was given to the county.
- There are no concerns of changing the nature of this open space verses a developed area. It will be necessary for a Rural Improvement District (RID) be put in place. There is minimal maintenance in this area right now.
- Stacy agreed that any development in that area will benefit the community.
- Mark and Kali will continue to work with the county on programming in that area.

Practicum Presentation: Kays Kids / Summer Meal Program – Lydia Sakowski, VISTA Volunteer

- Lydia Sakowski is a VISTA Volunteer that has been working with the city and the 6th Ward Garden Park project this past year.
- Lydia stated she is in the process of completing her Masters of Public Health degree though Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. One of the requirements is to complete a 10 week practicum to gain hands-on experience in the field of public health. After meeting with Amy, we came up with the idea of conducting an evaluation of the Kay's Kids and Summer Meal Programs with the intention of better understanding participants, the relationship between the two programs, how they are benefiting the community, and how they might be improved.

Kays Kids

- Kay's Kids is a free summer recreation program that was started by former Helena Mayor, Kay McKenna. The program has three sites: Memorial, Lincoln, and Barney Parks. The Summer Meal Program provides free lunches for Kay's Kids participants at each site.

Summer Meal Program

- The Sumer Meal Program is federally funded and is put on by the Helena School District in collaboration with MT No Kid Hungry and Sodexo, their food service provider. With this program, the more kids the school district serves, the more funding they receive to continue the program, so high attendance is important. On a good day, they serve over 300 kids at the Memorial Park site alone.

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The Process and Conclusion

- Lydia stated she began her practicum by gathering data and doing research on both programs. She collaborated with Amy, Robert Worthy (HSD), and Rachelle Sartori (MT No Kid Hungry VISTA) to create questions for a survey given to the kids, parents, and staff.
- The results showed that SMP is primarily used by families with multiple children. Very few children attend without a parent or guardian. Those who did attend alone appeared to have the greatest need for free meals.
- Lydia then said that she felt that the majority of kids attended the Kay’s Kids program because it was free; however, most parents stated they enrolled their kids as it gave them an opportunity to stay active and engaged through the summer. While Lydia thought free lunches from SMP would be a deciding factor in the parents’ decision to enroll their children in Kay’s Kids, but many parents stated they would be happy to pack lunches.
- Comments for Kay’s Kids: Parents would like to see more activities during Kay’s Kids. MT No Kid Hungry attempted to get volunteers to assist in this area, but were unsuccessful. Parents also stated they wish we would start the Kay’s Kids program at 8:00 instead of 9:00. Both staff and parents expressed that they would like better communication between staff and parents. Staff would like to see more involvement from parents. There were some complaints about bullying. The parents appreciated the fact that Kay’s Kids is becoming more of a “summer camp” as opposed to a baby-sitting service.
- Comments for SMP: Both parents and kids would like to see more food options offered (some kids had allergies and got bored with what was offered).
- Lydia then stated the data indicates that Kay’s Kids would still be a viable program even without the summer lunch program – however, the summer lunch program would probably not survive without Kay’s Kids.

• **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

- On August 18th, we did remove that fountain from Hill Park under the direction of the city commission. We had two objectives:
 - Do it safely
 - Do it in such a way as to not harm or damage the fountain.
- We were successful in both objectives.
- Amy plans to get together with county representatives to move forward with the overhaul of the joint City-County Comprehensive Parks Plans.
- Fire Tower Update: The fire tower is still standing. We received a follow-up report from the Montana Preservation Alliance. They asked if they could do their own assessment and the city looked at this as public comment. We now have a draft proposal on how to proceed with the rehabilitation of the Fire Tower with two main goals in mind: 1. Maintain the historic integrity

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and 2. Ensure that it is rehabilitated to meet structural code. We are still working on the approach.

- Timeline – look at construction in the spring.

County - Greg

- None.

HOLMAC - Dave

- Nothing to report.

Lincoln Parks Board – Nyle

- Had to do additional watering as the fields were very dry this year.
- As Misty stated, we are still dealing with the bathroom issues.
- Because of the park closures due to fire and smoke, camp sales over Labor Day were down.
- Ernie – the dedication for the River Park is on Saturday, September 9th.

Recreation – Todd

- Kay's Kids: Aggregate attendance between the three locations was 3.848 tracked attendances.
 - Memorial was a little less than last year. We were registered at capacity, but didn't necessarily attend.
 - Both Barney and Lincoln were up from last year.
 - Ran Lincoln for the full nine weeks of summer this year.
 - There were some behavioral problems.
- Tennis: Registrations were down a little this year. Revenue was consistent.
- Pool: Todd doesn't have the numbers yet. Weather was perfect this summer. Many people took advantage of the pool. We didn't see as many season pass sales due to increase of rates. We did see increase in punch cards and daily rates. Swim lessons were well attended.

Parks – Craig

- We wrapped up the Walking Mall project. Maintenance replaced two sections of the stream and rebuilt it. We have one more section to go.
- We have the benches and trellises for 6th Ward Garden Park. Maintenance is in the process of installing these.
- We had the bioswale constructed at the 6th Ward Park.
- We are still getting lots of reservations. Soccer has started.
- Maintenance is preparing for winter.
- Craig met with Dewey Skelton and Dewey wants to build and donate a shelter to Skelton Park (similar to the one at Barney). He also discussed putting basketball courts in that park.
- They are putting up a new fence at Clinton Park.
- Doing lots of pruning of boulevard trees.

Fair Board – Pat

- None.

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Playgrounds – Stacy

- Eastgate II has their playground equipment and is ready to install. Contractors and homeowners will do the installation.
- They have started the marketing plan for Cherry Park. They will present this in October.
- They rolled out the designs at Alive at Five and they were well received.
- Stacy is beginning a school project in Townsend.

School District – Kali

- Nothing to report.

Communications and Future Agenda Items (Board Members)

- Park Hours Discussion

Next Meeting Date: October 4, 2017

Adjournment

With no further business, the City-County Parks Board meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.

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