

City of Helena  
Listening Session Regarding  
City Advisory Boards

Friday, November 15, 2019

# About Me



**Deb Halliday**  
Halliday & Associates

**p:** (406) 546-6991  
**e:** deb@debhalliday.com  
**t:** @deb\_halliday  
**w:** debhalliday.com

- Based here in Helena
- Over 25 years' experience working around the country as a **master facilitator** and **community builder** tackling the complex issues of education, health care, and the economy through **collaborative partnerships** and strategic design
- Halliday ~~≠~~ Haladay

People own that  
which they help  
to build.

Margaret Wheatley



# Our time together

- Overview of our **purpose & process**
- Share current Parks & Rec **advisory board structure**
- Invite feedback on the **key themes** of today's listening session

# Guiding Principles\*

- we acknowledge each other as equals
- we listen to understand
- we remember that conversation is the natural way we humans think together
- we expect sometimes it will get a little messy
- we assume everyone has good intentions
- we value different perspectives

# Purpose & Process

**Purpose:** To provide community input into the City’s review of advisory boards that engage Parks & Recreation staff.

## Our Process:



In addition to today’s meeting, the City will have an on-line survey to invite community input into the process



# More about the process

- The City is looking to increase efficiency, reduce redundancy, add value and **increase effective public involvement**
- The Commission has directed City staff to look at **consolidating advisory boards**, starting with Parks & Rec
- **Community voice matters in the process** – starting with today’s meeting of advisory board members & an online survey
- The City remains committed to **engaging a diverse representation** of citizenry through an advisory board structure

# Current structure

## **Parks Specific, City-sponsored boards include:**

*Requires 30 – 60 hours per month of Parks & Rec staff time*

- Helena Open Lands Management Advisory Committee (HOLMAC)
- Civic Center Board
- Bill Roberts Golf Advisory Board
- City County Parks Board

## **Other Boards/Council (not staffed by parks, but involved):**

*Helena Public Arts Commission; Helena Citizen Council*

**Non-City-sponsored boards, but involved:** *Kay McKenna Youth Foundation, Sixth Ward Garden Park, Growing Friends & Bike Walk Montana/Helena*



# Today's Listening Session

## 6 Themes

- Efficiency
- Diversity & Representation
- Role of Advisory Boards
- Staff & Support
- This Process
- Like/Don't Like



## Key Theme 1: *Efficiency*

The Commission is concerned with potential redundancies and inefficiencies, and the amount of staff time required to support multiple boards.


- **What ideas do you have to increase efficiencies in the City's advisory boards?**
- **What concerns do you have as we look at efficiencies?**



## **Key Theme 2: *Diversity & Representation***

The Commission is seeking authentic, effective ways to engage a wide range of citizens through an advisory board structure.

- **What ideas do you have to ensure that advisory boards have diverse representation?**
- **What concerns do you have as we look at diverse representation?**



## Key Theme 3: *Role of Advisory Boards*

As we look at reimagining the Parks & Rec advisory board structure, your experience serving on an advisory board provides unique insight into the challenges and opportunities. In your opinion...

- **What do you see as the most important role(s) of an advisory board?**
- **Are there roles you think advisory boards should NOT serve?**

## Key Theme 4: *Staff & Support*

Parks and Rec staff spend an estimated 30-60 hours each month on advisory board management. In your opinion...

- **How can the City better support advisory bodies (not just meeting notes and agendas)?**



## Key Theme 5: *Process*

The City is committed to engaging the community in this review of advisory committee structure, starting with this listening session and the on-line survey.

- **What do you hope will result from this process?**
- **What concerns do you have about this process?**



## **Key Theme:** *What you like/don't like*

As the City strives to improve the effectiveness and impact of its citizen advisory structure, please share...

- **Your favorite thing about serving on a City advisory board is...**
- **Your LEAST favorite thing about serving on a City advisory board is...**

# Next Steps

- Spend time in the open house format & share your feedback
- Once you've shared your insights, you're done!
- On-line feedback on Parks & Rec site - TBD

Contact:

Kristi Ponozzo, City of Parks and Recreation Director

[kponozzo@helenamt.gov](mailto:kponozzo@helenamt.gov)

(406) 447-8462



# Guiding Principles\*

- we acknowledge each other as equals
- we listen to understand
- we remember that conversation is the natural way we humans think together
- we expect sometimes it will get a little messy
- we assume everyone has good intentions
- we value different perspectives

