City Members
☒ Pat Doyle
☐ Ross Johnson **excused**
☒ Steve Baiamonte

County Members
☐ Branden Watts
☐ Leah Norberg
☐ Nyle Howsmon (Lincoln Parks Board) **excused**

Joint Member
☒ School District Rep – Neal Murray

Commission Representatives
☒ Sean Logan, City Commissioner
☐ Jim McCormick, County Commissioner **excused**

Staff Contact
☐ Spencer Starke, Lewis and Clark County Representative **excused**
☒ Kristi Ponozzo, Parks, Recreation, and Open Lands Director
☒ Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent
☒ Kait Perrodin, Recreation and Aquatics Program Manager
☒ Jennifer Schade, Recorder

LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 426

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Visitor(s): Mike McConnell, Berkley Conrad, Sarah Sandau

1. **Call to Order**
   - Chairman Pat Doyle called the City-County Parks Board Meeting to order at 11:33 am.

2. **Establish Quorum/Introductions/Review Agenda/Approval of Minutes**
   - A quorum was not established; therefore, the minutes from the December 2019 meeting and February 2020 meeting will be moved to the April 2020 meeting for approval.
   - Chairman, Pat Doyle expressed concern over the lack of board member attendance from the County. In order for this board to be able to approve action items, it is imperative that we have a quorum at every meeting. Pat would like to discuss this issue at the April advisory board meeting. Questions to address include:
     - How does the county communicate with these board members?
     - Is someone else available to represent the county?
     - General discussion about board attendance.
   - Jennifer will add this as an agenda item to the April 2020 meeting.

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.

"The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space."
4. **Unfinished Business**

None.

5. **Presentations/Discussion Items**

**Wayfinding Signage: Sarah Sandau, Prevention Programs Supervisor, Lewis and Clark County Public Health**

- Sarah Sandau provided an update to the board on the status of the Active Wayfinding System.
- Sarah provided a presentation that included information presented when Karen Lane was with the county.
- The information presented includes the greater Helena region (Helena, East Helena and the valley as well). While Helena and the surrounding area has some wonderful trails and parks, people are stating they are unable to easily locate them. Some statistics shared include:
  - 13.4% of the people in Lewis and Clark County have diabetes;
  - 30.7% of County adults are considered obese (BMI of 30+);
  - 49.4% of high school youth in the County reported not being physically active for at least 1 hour for at least five of seven days;
  - 74.6% of key stakeholders identified nutrition, physical activity and weight as a major problem in our community.
- The Healthy Communities Coalition began with a workgroup that looked at wayfinding. Wayfinding for health equity should be designed to be accessible for everyone, encourage and increase healthy behaviors, and it enhances what we already have in our community.
- **Why is Wayfinding signage important?**
  - Define and communicate a sense of place and arrival.
  - Encourage healthy transportation.
  - Link people with to health equity focused destinations.
  - Create awareness of historical areas, landmarks, outdoor recreation, and natural resource destinations.
  - Enhance the overall brand of the community and region.
  - Provide accessible, clear, and legible navigation, thus improving mobility and multimodal circulation.
  - Provide an inclusive, cohesive, well-defined, consistent signage package (removing inconsistent clutter and styles).
- An Active Living Wayfinding System increases participation in physical activity and improves access to nutritious food programs by providing uniform signage and supporting material to enrich and enhance the experience within the Greater Helena Area.
- Healthy Communities Coalition had a workgroup that was focused on this plan. The focus was on food, nutrition, and physical activity. The various groups that assisted with the process included

“The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.”
The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.

Rocky Mountain Development Center (RMDC) – Seniors; Learning Center – Parents with Young Children; Farmer’s Market near SNAP-ED benefits table; and Montana Independent Living Project (MILP) who assisted in the process.

- Sarah reviewed the process for gathering data and the creation of wayfinding signage (see attached PowerPoint presentation provided by Sarah). You can also review more information by going to: https://www.lccountymt.gov/health/health-promotion/plan4health.html.
- Sarah then reviewed the current status of wayfinding signage in Helena and proposed implementation plans to include potential costs.
- Next steps will include working with Parks to make the roll-out of the plan as smooth as possible. They are also working with the Physical Activity Workgroup of the Healthy Communities Coalition to make alterations/addendums. Eventually, the coalition will come back to ask the Parks Board to make a recommendation to the City/County Commissions to adopt the plan. This could be in the form of a resolution. Implementations of the plan will not happen all at once. This will happen in phases.
- Michael McConnell with Community Development asked in working with these stakeholder groups, how often did the lack of ADA accessible sidewalks come into the conversation. Will the coalition focus on areas where sidewalks. There was some discussion about sidewalk. MDT will have to be part of the conversations as well.
- Steve stated there are some wayfinding signs by the capital, but they would like to see some signage on highway 12. Will this be a possibility? Sarah stated she has contacts at MDT and they gave her exactly what they want. How this will happen will be included in Sarah’s next steps in the process. Sarah will send some information regarding this opportunity.
- Pat – going forward, how are you prioritizing new signage projects? Sarah stated that the money to place signage at the trailheads came from leftover grant money. The workgroup is working to get the plan adopted and will then begin applying for more grants.
- Sarah encouraged all to join a workgroup.

6. Action Item(s)

Cash-In-Lieu Presentation / Anderson Village Subdivision: Kristi Ponozzo, Director, Parks and Recreation

STAFF PROPOSAL:

- OBJECTIVE: To accept cash-in-lieu of the Anderson Village Subdivision.
- BACKGROUND: The parcels proposed for subdivision within the Anderson Village Subdivisions are currently zoned R-O, residential office district which are intended to provide for a compatible mix of higher density residential development with professional and business offices and associated service uses. There is no proposed zoning change associated with this new Anderson Village Subdivision. The proposed subdivision is intended for higher density residential and business development.
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff supports acceptance of a cash donation (cash-in-lieu).

Kristi – we did get a proposal for cash in lieu from the Anderson Village Subdivision.

“The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.”
This developer is just proposing cash in lieu, not parkland. The city is recommending accepting this proposal as the area is very close to Skelton Park. There is no connective or adjacent property that is proposed from the developer to increase parkland. The cash-in-lieu could be used for local parks improvements to include Skelton Park.

It is ultimately .54 acres of parkland.

Pat stated that because this is a time sensitive matter, and in absence of some of the voting board members, we did approve a proxy vote. Board members voted as follows:

- Pat Dole – Approve to accept cash in lieu
- Ross Johnson – Approve to accept cash in lieu
- Steve Baiamonte - Approve to accept cash in lieu
- Ernie Lundquist - Approve to accept cash in lieu

Craig – the city has had a good track record of taking property over the years, but he feels this is a good opportunity for cash in lieu as we can use the money for improvements for this park and maybe others.

Kristi stated we did a cash in lieu for Intermountain this summer. It was close to the same size as this piece of property and we received around $26,000.

Sean asked how the cash in lieu amount determined. There is a calculation / formula in state statute. We take the acreage when the final plat is done and use the formula in the statute. The calculation is based on the fair market value of unimproved land.

Steve asked how many parks are located near the subdivision. Skelton and Jaycee parks are both fairly close.

Pat – to his knowledge, there is no geographic zones within the city limits. This is not defined. Kristi stated the statute states in the “general area”. Craig did state the money has to serve that subdivision in the general vicinity. This money goes into our parks improvement account. We haven’t used this board for using these funds in the past. The city almost always takes the property.

Neal – when was the last time the calculation was evaluated for accuracy? Does that need to be adjusted? Kristi stated the statute was updated in the last 5 years.

Michael stated he will look into this.

7. Reports

| City Parks and Recreation Director Report | Kristi Ponozzo, Director |
| City Parks and Recreation Maintenance Report | Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent |
| County Report | Spencer Starke (or Representative) |
| Helena School District | Neal Murray (or Representative) |
| Helena Police Department | Berkley Conrad (or Representative) |

“*The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.*”
City Parks, Recreation, Open Lands Update

- Kristi announced that we have hired a new Food and Beverage Manager for Muni’s Sports Grille at Bill Roberts Golf Course. Erik Sundquist comes to us from Carroll College (Sodexo). He has created a new menu. We hope to have a “soft opening” by mid-to-late March with a grand reopening shortly thereafter. Muni’s restaurant is open year-round. While Bill Roberts Golf Course is currently managed as an enterprise business, we anticipate that we will need general fund support in the future. The Civic Center also is managed as an enterprise business with a substantial city subsidy.
- Kristi stated that the finance department will be presenting a “Book of Fees” to Commission this month. This includes fees for the entire city. The majority of fees will include increased rates. Our fees include resident discount and regular fees.

City Parks and Recreation Maintenance Report - Craig

- The parks department did experience some tree damage from the recent storm. We had three trees go down yesterday – one big spruce in Hill Park and two boulevard trees.
- Fountain Update: Both parts will be shipped to Helena. It is scheduled to be installed on March 23rd. There will hopefully be an unveiling after that.
- Spring sports has started. Carroll College and the school district have both submitted their requests. We are receiving lots of requests from other groups.
- Fire tower project: Pam Attardo is helping with this project. She put in for one grant and found another grant to apply for. Both the base and top need to be redone.
- We have received several complaints about dog waste in the parks and on open lands. This typically happens when the snow begins to melt.
- Craig’s crews are doing spring cleaning. We are having some issues with debris blowing from the transfer station into some of the city parks. Craig will address this issue.
- Craig met with members of Growing Friends to get summer plans coordinated.
- Craig also met with representative from Legion Baseball to figure out their schedule for spring and summer.
- Craig has been working with the engineer on the plan for the Benton Avenue Trail.
- The Arborist position has closed. We received a few applicants for that position. We also have a ¾-time park maintenance position advertised.
- Crews are working on firing up the irrigation in the parks. We were having issues at Barney Park and had to bring in Big Sky Plumbing for assistance.

“The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.”
**City Parks Recreation - Kait**
- The ice rink is closed for the season. We experience average numbers. There was an increase from last year. It was a fairly successful winter.
- Parks maintenance worked with us on maintaining the ice rink with all the warm weather.
- Attendance and revenue were both up this year.
- The Summer Recreation Guide coming out in March. Registration for summer classes (swim lessons, etc.) is scheduled to open April 1.
- We are hiring for summer positions beginning in mid-March (previous staff) and will begin posting new positions around the beginning of April.

**Helena School District – Neal**
- Two emergency parking lights had to be removed from the Four Georgians parking lot due to extreme wind.
- District is doing planning for summer programs.
- Four elementary schools will be upgraded safety and security wise as well as the three high school locations.
- School district crews will be doing a lot of roofing and paving this summer.

**Helena Police Department – Berkley**
- The police department received 23 calls this month, nothing major.
- There was a lot of protest when we removed the fountain from Hill Park. Berkley reminded Craig to reach out to the police department if we experience any issues with the new install.

**Fair Board – Leah**
- None.

**HOLMAC – Kristi**
- Kristi stated she would provide an update on HOLMAC / Open Lands.
- We are working on finalizing Chapter 7, Recreation portion of the Open Lands Management Plan. We took the plan to Commission in January. We received direction to complete the public outreach portion of the plan. We have been working with some user groups on this. With that being said, we hope to have a public process that will be an addendum to the plan.
- On the Monday Commission agenda, we have some budget amendments in regards to the Beattie Street Trailhead project. The bid for this project came in under budget. Initially we thought the bid would be between $600-700K. We received a construction bid for $314K. It came in significantly lower than originally expected.

“The City - County Parks Board’s mission is to promote investment in the development and maintenance of parks, recreation, trails and open space.”
Lincoln Parks Board – Ernie

- Ernie shared the following items via email.
- Snowmobilers have been using Hooper Park to park trucks and trailers.
- The board is working on hiring a host for the summer.
- A storage container will be delivered this spring for tools and the mower.

8. Communications and Future Agenda Items (Board Members)
- County board member attendance.

9. Next Meeting Date
- April 1, 2020

10. Other

11. 12:25

ADA NOTICE - CITY

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 Sharon Haugen, Community Development Director, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: Phone: (406) 447-8490; TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 Email: citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov, Mailing address & physical location: 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.

ADA NOTICE – COUNTY

Lewis and Clark County 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 County will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them County’s services, programs, or activities.

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 or 711, adouglas@lccountymt.gov.
Active Living Wayfinding System

Sarah Sandau,
Lewis and Clark Public Health

On behalf of the Healthy Communities Coalition
The Issue
Why Wayfinding?

13.4% of people in the County have disabilities.

30.7% of County adults are obese (BMI 30+).

Almost half, 49.4%, of high school youth in the county reported not being physically active for at least one hour on at least five of the last seven days.

74.6% of key stakeholders identified nutrition, physical activity, and weight as a “major” or “moderate” problem in the community.

40+ parks within the Greater Helena Area

Strong bicycling community, including recreation and commuter bicyclist

Over 175 miles of recreational trails in the Greater Helena Area

Wayfinding will enhance existing positive influence on health
Why Wayfinding

- Define and communicate a sense of place and arrival.
- Encourage healthy transportation.
- Link people with to health equity focused destinations.
- Create awareness of historical areas, landmarks, outdoor recreation, and natural resource destinations.
- Enhance the overall brand of the community and region.
- Provide accessible, clear, and legible navigation, thus improving mobility and multimodal circulation.
- Provide an inclusive, cohesive, well-defined, consistent signage package (removing inconsistent clutter and styles).
Healthy Communities Coalition

Awarded 2 grants

- **Plan4Health** - American Planning Association and American Public Health Association (Oct ‘15-Feb ‘17) Cohort 2, 17 communities; 26 nationwide

- **Reaching People With Disabilities Through Healthy Communities**
  - National Assoc. of Chronic Disease Directors (Jan’16-June ‘19) 5 states, 2 communities each
Vision

An Active Living Wayfinding System increases participation in Physical Activity and Improves Access to nutritious food programs by providing uniform signage and supporting material to enrich and enhance the experience within the Greater Helena Area.
Workgroup

Healthy Communities Coalition has a workgroup focused on this plan.

Workgroup members include representatives from the following groups:

- Lewis and Clark Public Health
- American Planning Association, Western Central Chapter
- Bike Walk Montana
- City of Helena Engineer
- Exploration Works
- Helena Family YMCA
- Helena Food Share
- Helena Parks and Recreation
- Helena Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council
- Midtown Neighborhood Association
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Montana Disability and Health Program
- Montana Independent Living Project
- Montana State University Extension Service
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities
- Safe Routes to School
- Youth Connections
- Helena Tourism Alliance
Focus Groups

✓ Rocky Mountain Development Council (Seniors)

✓ Learning Center (Parents with Young Children)

✓ Farmer’s Market near SNAP-Ed benefits table

✓ MILP
What do you love about Helena?

...about the **PEOPLE**?

...about the **PLACE**?

...about the **HISTORY**?

...about the **ENVIRONMENT**?

Helena, MT Active Living Wayfinding
Wikimaps - On-line Survey

- Respondents marked where they live and their typical destinations in the Greater Helena Area
- Nearly 1000 people completed the survey
- Additional facilitated process created for people who could not complete the survey on-line (people with disabilities)
DROP-IN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Select Your Favorite Concept!
Learn about the progress of the Greater Helena Area Wayfinding System and give us your feedback on your preferred design for the future wayfinding sign family for the Greater Helena Area. This event will be a drop-in, drop-out open house style event where a small amount of time is required to participate. There will be a short presentation about the project at 12:15pm for those interested in learning more about the project. See you there!

WED October 26th

City/County Building
Visit our Open House!
11 am to 2 pm
316 N Park Ave
Room 226
Helena, MT 59623

For more information please contact Karen Lane, Prevention Programs Manager, Lewis and Clark Public Health: 406.457.8960 or klane@lccountymt.gov
Stakeholder Interviews

MT Department of Transportation

Downtown Helena Business Improvement District

Helena Tourism Bureau

Helena Parks and Recreation
Luncheon with NACDD Visitors and Community Leaders
Demographics

CONTEXT AND SETTING

DEMographics
With a focus on equity in signing routes and destinations, it is important to analyze the access and functional needs of the whole community, as cited in the American Community Survey (ACS). Those populations typically have environmental obstacles that can prevent them from creating and maintaining healthy lifestyles. A series of equity maps on the following pages display areas of concentration, or density, of particular communities—each of which are in need of safe active transportation facilities and guidance to access healthy destinations— for food, education, and physical/mental health.
The Active Living Wayfinding Plan
CONCEPT 1A: Off Street Wayfinding

Helena, MT Active Living Wayfinding


Parks Board Presentation, March 4, 2020
ON-STREET WAYFINDING
Current Status

- Trailheads
- 6 in town locations (4 installed, 2 more being created)
  - 6th Ward Garden Park
  - Centennial Park
  - Walking Mall
  - Kennedy Park
  - Fairgrounds (in creation)
  - MT Wild (conversations being had)
Implementation

greater Helena Area Active Living Wayfinding System

LEVEL ONE
- City Centers
- Districts
- Neighborhoods
- Universities

LEVEL TWO
- Transit Stations
- Tourist Venues
- Regional Parks
- Open Space

LEVEL THREE
- Local Destinations
- Parks/Community Gardens
- Schools
- Shopping Centers
- Healthcare

LEVEL ONE DESTINATIONS
- City of Helena
- East Helena
- Capitol Area
- Railroad Area
- Great Northern District
- Fire Tower District
- Last Chance Gulch District
- Helena Airport
- Helena College University of Montana
- Carroll College

LEVEL 2 DESTINATIONS
- Capitol Building
- Capitol Grounds Trail
- Centennial Trail
- Centennial Park
- City County Building
- City of East Helena City Hall
- Civic Center
- Exploration Works
- Fire Tower Park
- Great Northern Carousel
- Grand Street Theater
- Helena Municipal Court
- Hilton Art Museum
- Last Chance Gulch Walking Mall
- Lewis & Clark Fairgrounds
- Lewis & Clark Library (East Helena & Helena)
- Lewis & Clark Public Health
- Mount Ascension
- Mount Helena Park
- Myrmo Loy Center
- Post Office
- PureView Health Center
- Reeder’s Alley
- Shopping & Dining
- Spring Meadow Lake Park
- St. Peter’s Hospital
- US District Court
- Visitor’s Center

LEVEL 3 DESTINATIONS
- 6th Ward Park Gardens
- 7-Up Park
- Anchor Park
- Atlas Block
- Barney Park
- Benton Football Fields
- Bausch Park Gardens
- Beatie Park
- Beatie Street Trailhead
- Blackstone House
- Bryant Elementary (Free lunch for kids during summer)
- Capital View Trailhead
- Cherry Park
- City of East Helena Swimming Pool
- Clinton Park
- Cooney Homes Garden
- Cruise Overlook Garden
- Daisy Hill Trailhead
- Davis Gulch Trailhead
- Dighton Trailhead
- Donaldson Park
- Eastgate Park
- Emerald Ridge Park
- Governor’s Mansion
- Heritage Pioneer Park
- Hill Park
- Hooper Park
- Janel Street Park Garden
- Jaycee Park
- Kay McKenna Park
- Kennedy Park
-Kindrick Legion Field
-Lambkin Park
-Lee Poche Park
-Lime Kiln Road Trailhead
-Lincoln Park (Free lunch for kids during summer)
-Little Yoak Trailhead
-Lockey Park (Free lunch for kids during summer)
-Main Lilac Park
-Mckayley Trailhead
-Memorial Park (Free lunch for kids during summer)
-Mike Comer Trailhead
-Mob Hill Park
-Oto Fino Gulch Trailhead
-Pinney Pioneer Park
-Plymouth Garden
-Ramey Park
- Robinson Park
-Schiller Park
-Sehna Held Park Garden
-Sierra Park
-Skeleton Park
-St. Mary Jubilee Garden
-Triangle Park
-Tubbs Trailhead
-Woman’s Community Park
-Waterline Trailhead
-Waukasha Park Garden
-Wellspring Park
-Willow Creek Reservoir conservation easement
-Woman’s Park
-VMCA
-VUOC
-YWCA
## Costs

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Next Steps

- Work with the Physical Activity Workgroup of the Healthy Communities Coalition to make some alterations/addendums.
- Eventually - a recommendation from the Parks Board to the City and County to adopt.
Thank you!

For more information, please contact

Sarah Sandau
ssandau@lccountymt.gov
457-8960