



City of Helena

**HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY
January 10, 2017**

City Members Representative

- Betsy Miller
- Eric Sivers
- Jeff Shirley
- Dan Wirak
- Vacant

City of Helena Staff Representatives

- Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager
- Greta Dige, Code Enforcement

City-County Parks Board Representative

- Dave Payne

Helena Citizens Council Representative

- Denise Roth Barber *new member*

Helena Tourism Alliance Representative

- Jennifer Davis

Prickly Pear Land Trust Representative

- Nate Kopp

LOCATION: City of Helena Parks and Recreation – Room 326

TIME: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Wirak called the HOLMAC meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Welcome/Introductions/Visitors

Minutes Approval: With no corrections, the December 16, 2016 minutes were approved as written.

HOLMAC Action Items:

- Lodge Pole parcel access/sale to residence **Tabled**
 - The only change on the lodge pole parcel was the “L” shaped property surrounding it did sell. It is a local landowner that purchased the property. Brad recommended that we contact this landowner to discuss the potential for an administrative access to do anything that needs to be done. This could open the door to further discussions. **Brad will reach out to the new landowner to discuss the need for administrative access.** Based on the conversation, Brad is hoping to get a better idea of what their future plans may be for the parcel.
 - The question was asked – is it customary for the city to own a piece of property that is not accessible? Brad stated he believes this happened as a result of BLM accepting those parcels that fell within the city limits.
 - Brad – we have no legal access to this parcel at the present time.
 - We do have some projects scheduled on this property so we want to get administrative access as soon as possible. This property covers 25 acres.
- Van Hook raised walkway and land purchase **Tabled**
 - None.

- Davis St. parking lot, Water line parking on Orofino, Beattie street parking. **Any updates**
 - Brad announced that the elevational survey was to begin this week. City Engineering is working on designing the entire parking area. Brad will need this information quickly.
 - When we applied for the recreational trails grant, we won't be asking for money to build the parking area, but we will be showing it as match so it would be nice to know what the cost estimate was.
 - Erik stated he has heard rumors about low pressure water – perhaps replacing the vault toilet with flush facilities. Brad stated he wants to stay with the vault restrooms as we have experienced so much vandalism in developed parks where there is running water.
 - Our application will be for the same vault toilet that we have at Mount Helena.
 - Our agreement with BLM is to keep this project under an acre.
 - Jennifer asked about the possibility of water access to fill bottles and for dogs. Brad said we may look into this.
 - Brad then stated we won't do anything with the Davis Street parking area until the spring.
 - Beattie Street Parking: Brad stated that HOLMAC did a great job last time we needed to get support letters from community members. Brad distributed a sample of a support letter with a list of those who provided letters last time. Brad will take some of the names, but asked the committee to submit new names in addition to the list provided. He will need the support letters by the last week of this month so he can submit them with the grant application. HOLMAC members each took a few of the names from Brad's list to contact. Brad is hoping for 20 letters of support. **Brad will email copies of the letters to the committee.**
 - The application will be similar. Amy has been working on the Wayfinding effort (to have consistency with our signage) which will be included as part of our application. For information regarding the Wayfinding effort, please go to the following link: <http://plan4health.us/wayfinding-in-greater-helena-montana/>. This effort is about consistency and people being able to recognize the same type of sign.
- Counters, any further discussion?
 - Nate – we need to make a determination on where to place the counters for the upcoming season. Beattie Street may be a great opportunity to pair up infrared and a mountain bike counter together. This would give us some good counts for this year on the increase of use. Mount Helena and Beattie Street will be the two main areas. PPLT has two of the infrared counters and two mountain bike counters and then we borrow one from the Last Chance Nordic Ski Club.
- PPLT trails committee report, Nate or Dan
 - The main topic of discussion from the trails committee meeting was how to use the trails committee more effectively. The trails committee should have a more defined role in the community.
 - Dan asked what changes the committee sees in regards to trail landscape. Nate stated significant growth and development and the user population.
- Trail improvement discussion\ ideas for 2017 work plan.
 - Dan sent some ideas to Brad for review.
 - Last year we wanted to document ideas about trail plans; whether from PPLT or the community at large. The document Nate sent out is a product of those discussions. Nothing has been prioritized. Brad would still like to continue receiving ideas.

- What the forest service is doing is extending or renewing the city's authority to work on forest service trails without incorporating any exchange of cash. Brad hopes to incorporate this project into next year's plans enabling us to give it designation. This would be a trail that runs from the ridge trail down to the hanging draw trail on the north side of McKelvey. It gives people more opportunity to do a loop and it gets more sun exposure.
- **Please send ideas to Brad as soon as possible.**
- Other
 - None.

Parks and Recreation Report – Brad

- Brad stated he has been doing a lot of snow removal. Historically, Brad has shared some of this responsibility with park maintenance.
- Park maintenance has been shoveling/plowing the trailhead informally. We have decided to formalize this process. There will be an individual from parks maintenance that will be assigned to tasks at the trailheads which include the next winter snow plowing and sanding. That individual will also be responsible for visiting the trailheads on a more systematic basis. They will also clean restrooms, replenish pet stations, empty trash, and look for vandalism. The entire trail system will be visited monthly. This will allow for a cleaner, tidier trail system.
- Contractors are completing the project on McKelvey. This contract expires at the end of February.
- Brad is still working on getting the site ready at the new shop.
- Seasonal crew – we will have a 4 person crew for 15 weeks.
- Brad has started the budget process for 2018.

Reports from Subcommittees:

- Weeds – Greta
 - None. Greta is at the weed conference in Great Falls.
- Report from PPLT
 - None.
- Cultural Resources
 - None.
- Wildlife
 - None.
- Forestry
 - None.

Public Comment:

- None.

Next Meeting Date: February 14, 2017

Future Agenda Items:

- Jennifer may attend a future meeting to discuss agenda/minutes process.

Adjournment:

- With no further business, Nate moved to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

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