



**CITY-COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD  
SUMMARY  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021**



**City Members**

- Pat Doyle - absent**
- Steve Biamonte
- David McGuire

**County Members**

- Vacant
- Vacant
- Nyle Howsmon (Lincoln Parks Board)
- Ernie Lundberg (Lincoln Parks Board)

**Joint Member**

- School District Representative – Neal Murray

**Commission Representatives**

- Sean Logan, City Commissioner
- Jim McCormick, County Commissioner

**Staff Contact**

- Connie Dedrick, Lewis and Clark County Representative – Lindsay Morgan
- Kristi Ponzoso, Parks, Recreation, and Open Lands Director
- Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent
- Kait Perrodin, Recreation and Aquatics Program Manager
- Jennifer Schade, Parks Administrative Assistant, Recorder

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94870697663?pwd=NllmcEwzK2FkaDlLZ1JKUEh2VEEdsdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 7069 7663

Passcode: 663448

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,94870697663# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,94870697663# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)

Meeting ID: 948 7069 7663

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ahPlpmcw7>

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

**Visitor(s): Ben Tintinger – Helena Regional Sports Association (HRSA); Dr. G. Roostech; Abbi – Guest**

## **Call to Order**

- Steve Baiamonte called the March 3, 2021 City-County Parks Board Advisory Meeting to order at 11:32 am.

### **1. Establish Quorum/Introductions/Review Agenda/Approval of Minutes**

- A quorum was established.
- After review of the January 6, 2021 minutes, and with no noted corrections, Dave moved to approve the minutes as presented. Nyle seconded. Motion carried.

### **2. 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.

### **3. Unfinished Business**

- None.

### **4. Action Item(s)**

- None.

### **5. Presentations/Discussion Items**

#### Kindrick-Legion Fields Update: Kristi Ponozzo

- Kristi provided an update on the status of Kindrick-Legion fields.
- The city is currently in the discussions on how to move forward with the management of Kindrick-Legion fields. The last two years we have had a use agreement with American Legion. After discussion amongst the Parks Department, the City-County Parks Board, and the City Commission, the City was given a directive to solicit request for proposals on the use of the facility. We did this in January. We received two proposals for use – one from American Legion and the second one from the Expedition League. We had a scoring team to include a representative from the City-County Parks Board. That representative was Chairman, Pat Doyle. Out of the two proposals, American Legion did score higher; however both proposals were very good. Both of the proposals expressed an interest and willingness to look at a potential shared use agreement. While unable to come to a formal shared use agreement for this year between the two entities, we will continue to work on a shared use agreement in hopes to benefit all parties.
- Identified as needs to make this shared agreement happen include potential turf installation on the infield at Kindrick-Legion field to have more scheduled use, and potential for updates to Ryan Fields in an effort to accommodate some practices and games.
- For the 2021 season, we will prepare an exclusive agreement with American Legion for sole use of Kindrick-Legion fields.

#### Regional Parks District Update: Kristi Ponozzo

- Kristi updated the board as there have been recent conversations with the City Commission about revisiting/reinvigorating the discussions of a regional parks district.

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

- This was discussed at the last City Commission meeting as well as the last City-County Joint Administrative meeting.
- Kristi stated she first wanted to bring this matter back to the Parks Board to begin the discussion. Some of the ideas discussed at the joint administrative meeting include:
  1. The potential of the City-County Parks Board and/or a working group that comes out of the parks board to begin looking at what the potential steps would be in creating a parks district;
  2. Engaging a larger group in the discussions;
  3. The possibility of collaborating with HRSA and the YMCA on a regional sports facility as part of that parks district.
- Kristi then recommended that we reengage Green Play (who did the original master plan and study) to come back to Helena in an effort to have them assist with setting up next steps and giving recommendations on creating a group to help us move forward with looking at the next steps for a parks district.
- Steve asked if there is money in the budget in for bringing Green Play back to Helena. The last time Green Play was hired, the city and the county split their fees.
- Ben – as a representative of HRSA, Ben stated they would be interested in partnering with the city and county in moving a regional parks district forward. He stated HRSA will do anything possible to help facilitate this. As an organization, HRSA may potentially be able to help with bringing Green Play back to Helena. We all have a stake in this and want to see it move forward.
- Dave McGuire – how big is the region being discussed? Kristi stated the area being discussed encompasses Lewis and Clark County, parts of Jefferson County, East Helena, Montana City. The study done has a specific boundary in it. ***We (the parks department) will send more information and a link to our website that shows the map with the boundaries discussed in the proposed district.***
- Lindsay added the region that was discussed goes north of Lincoln Road and does encompass parts of Jefferson County. Craig stated the area would be a ten-mile radius around Helena.
- Steve asked if there is a cost associated with this, would the City-County Parks Board need to approve this or would it need to be an action item on the agenda? Steve asked that we bring this discussion back at our next meeting.
- Kristi said she can do that and will do additional research on Green Play and how that process was handled.
- Lindsay stated that this was a two-phase process. We did a Request for Proposals and received four proposals, one that came from Green Play. Green Play visited Helena on two occasions and engaged the public. All in all, we enjoyed working with Green Play.
- Lindsay added that while the Parks Board did not vote on the RFP's, those involved in the selection process did bring the four proposals to the Parks Board with a recommendation.
- Ben then stated that it seems like there is some parallel work that needs to happen. If we decide to go forward with discussion on a regional parks district, he encourages us to bring all partners into this discussion. The board should also look at a scope of work that would need to be defined. Ben suggests that this board committee could come together to define scope of work and have conversations with potential partners before bringing Green Play back.
- Sean – given this discussion of a regional parks district, Sean is asking that the board consider going back to monthly board meetings. Steve stated he is open to monthly meetings.
- Steve asked members if they want to go back to monthly meetings. All members present all agreed to return to monthly meetings. ***Jennifer will send out meeting invites.***

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

County Parks Board Representation Discussion: Kristi Ponozzo

- Kristi mention that this board currently has two vacant county board positions. We need to get these positions filled.
- Lindsay stated she spoke with Nadine and they are aware of the need and are advertising for those positions.
- Regarding the Lincoln members: We have two representatives from Lincoln that alternate attending the meetings. If both Nyle and Ernie are at the same meeting, only one of them can vote.

**6. Reports**

City Parks and Recreation Director Report	Kristi Ponozzo, Director
City Parks and Recreation Maintenance Report	Craig Marr, Parks Superintendent
City Parks Recreation Manager Report	Kait Perrodin, Aquatics/Recreation Manager
County Report	Connie Dedrick / Lindsay Morgan (or Representative)
Helena School District	Neal Murray (or Representative)
Helena Police Department	Berkley Conrad (or Representative)
<b>BOARDS REPORTS</b>	
Fair Board	Leah Norberg
HOLMAC	Ross Johnson
Lincoln Parks Board	Ernie Lundberg / Nyle Howsmon

**City Parks and Recreation Director Report**

- Kristi asked to add the Regional Parks District as an agenda item. She also asked to add the YMCA and HRSA as part of that discussion.

**City Parks and Recreation Maintenance Report**

- Craig stated that the well pump at Kindrick-Legion fields had to be pulled and will need to be replaced.
- The newly installed well at Hill Park is up and running.
- Crews have been working on playground maintenance.
- It is time for the submission of budgets for the next fiscal year. The department is working closely with finance on this.
- Craig and Pat will be monitoring water usage very closely this year.
- We will be resurfacing the tennis courts at Barney Park this year (hopefully sometime in August).
- Craig stated the department has received many request for permanent restrooms at Northwest Park. While it won't happen this year, the department is looking at this option in the budget for the future.

**City Parks Recreation Manager Report**

- Kait stated we had a great season at the ice rink this year. She hopes to keep the rink open for the next two weeks with limited hours. It will be very weather-dependent.
- Kait is now turning her attention to summer activities. Her first goal is to put out the season recreation guide. She hopes to get the completed guide out to local businesses and online very soon.

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

### **County Report**

- Lindsay stated that in January, there was conversation about Ryan Ball Fields and the potential to place some playground equipment in that park. There are no new updates on this discussion.

### **Helena School District**

- Neal stated his crews have been installing plexi-glass at the schools the last four weeks.

### **HOLMAC**

- David stated he attended the last two HOLMAC meetings. There is discussion of the possibility of eBike use on trails and what that would like. Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager gave a presentation of other communities and what they are doing in regards to eBike use.
- Kristi will be sending out a survey to the community in an effort to get input regarding eBike usage.

### **Fair Board**

- At this time there is no representative serving on this board. Neal asked for meeting information. Jennifer will get that to Neal for consideration.
- ***The Fair Board meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am at the Fairgrounds office.***

### **Lincoln Parks Board**

- Nyle stated Lincoln they had a lot of snow this year.
- They have been receiving calls about park summer use of the park and pavilion.

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

- Regional Parks District Discussion

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

- April 7

## **9. Other**

## **10. Adjournment**

### **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 the City of Helena Community Development Department, 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](mailto:citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov), Mailing address & physical location: 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.

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

## **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](tel:1-800-253-4091) or 711, [adouglas@lccountymt.gov](mailto:adouglas@lccountymt.gov).

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