



**HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Time-Stamped Summary  
December 13, 2022**



**GENERAL MEMBERS**

- Grant Jackson
- Lindsay Gilstrap

**CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD**

- Ben Kuiper

**HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL**

- T.J. Lehmann

**CITY OF HELENA STAFF**

- Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager
- Heather Kahler, Recorder

Tyler Wock, Open Lands Crew Cheif

**ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

- Helena Tourism Alliance Representative
- Andrea Opitz

**PPLT REPRESENTATIVE**

- Tim Lawrence

**Meeting Date and Time: December 13, 2022 // 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Location: In Person at the City County Building Room 426 or Zoom**

**Zoom Recording Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/nsyn6XFZj9n5FfkISNgU20w6DckeXu909zfwanqficT6OkrUschrFrYF-2oUmlW.TuIckJQtIjfbEIQR>

Call to Order – **TS: 02:22**

Welcome/Introductions/Visitors  
No Quorum was established

Minutes Approval – **TS: 03:27**  
October 11, 2022 were approved

HOLMAC Action Items – **TS: 04:10**

- Elect a new HOLMAC Chairperson
  - No Quorum
  - There is a need for additional HOLMAC members

- Heather reported there are three openings and no new applicants have come in. She also reported that the openings are listed on the website and she is available to help people apply

#### New Business – **TS: 05:48**

- Ales For Trails Funding
  - Brad reported that the Ales for Trails committee presented him with funding for two projects as they had a record fundraising event.
    - Old Shooting Range Restroom Accessibility Project in the amount of \$15,000.00
    - Limekiln Parking Area Realignment Project in the amount of \$20,000.00
  - Brad detailed his plans and reasonings behind the funding allocations and is excited to begin the work.
  - Brad mentioned that with this donation, the Ales for Trails event has raised over \$180,000.00 for Helena area trails.
- RTP Grant Application – **TS 13:10**
  - Brad reported the working group for the Upper Deford Trail came up with a consensus and proposed to build a universal access trail for a total of roughly 2850 feet. The RTP Grant is not looking like it's going to come in. He is exploring other grant opportunities to help with this trail project.
- Prescribed Burning Progress Report – **TS: 17:22**
  - Brad mentioned they began prescribed burning two weeks ago between the 1906 trail and Prairie trail on Mount Helena and are at the Diresisema trail. They are continuing to burn as weather and the snow environment allow as they are receiving perfect conditions to burn with safe outcomes. They are working closely with Montana DEQ. Generally they'll burn two days a week. Signage has been posted to let the public know of the burn. Lindsey asked if an increase of calls occur once burning begins, Brad said not necessarily as there is a lot of pro-active calls and postings that help advise.
  - Brad continued about how they are maintaining safety and reasonings behind their strategies.
- Brad opened the floor up for questions from the group – **TS: 23:27**
  - Lindsey mentioned that there may be some further leads on grant funding for the Upper Deford Universal Trail Project. The working group is supportive of this project and does want to see it move forward. Brad expressed his thoughts on why this project is a good idea because of the new universal trail that was recently constructed on Mount Helena and it's increase of use. Further discussion continued about other trails around town, their benefits and challenges. The past summer's flood had an impact on the Mount Helena Universal Trail.
  - PPLT is working on re-doing their trail maps. Lindsey asked if a thought of a QR Code has ever been considered to be placed at the trail heads that would help access the maps on a mobile device. Tim and Brad both mentioned those things have been talked about to get better functioning map systems and up to date. Further discussion continued about ideas of what could be put on the kiosks at the trail heads to advise users of the different difficulty ranges they could follow. Brad mentioned they've been

using older maps and would like to see an update along with a do's and don'ts list for users with bikes and/or pets. They've tried some things in the past but are certainly open to new ideas.

- Grant asked when Knobb Hill was going to be prescribed burned. Brad mentioned that that portion might happen later in the season, but they are working on more serious higher density areas first.
- Heather then put on the screen the photos that the City of Helena's Public Information Officer took of the crew and the fires.
- Brad shared the process that underwent prior to burning and how efficient that process went with the contracted company.
- Further discussion continued about other areas in the Open Lands properties fire mitigation time lines.
- Brad then reported that his maintenance staff is doing lots of snow plowing and cleaning the public facilities.

**Public Comment – No public comment – TS: 56:10**

**Future Agenda Items – TS: 56:35**

Send agenda items to Heather ahead of time. Brad said he'll share the budget with the group as that comes ready for fiscal year 2024 and will share the departments capital improvement plan for the next five years looking to any large future purchases, needs and materials.

**Adjournment – TS: 59:44**

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