



City-County Consolidated Parks Board Time Stamped Summary



June 7, 2023 – 11:30 AM
City-County Building 316 N Park Ave. Room 426

Zoom Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/n5Lwc5D6UgNO2ThYrExTqHkVv034JKZaWCAV3IWwOq82ELKo_vrhGy1PyE66Qa.87wh9LRUi4U_ota-

(00:00:17) Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Dave McGuire called the meeting to order at 11:34am

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present

Dave McGuire – City Appointee

Doug Haberman – City Appointee

Nyle Housmon – County Appointee/Lincoln Parks Board Member

Alex Tommerup – County Appointee

Jerry Blythe – County Appointee

City Commissioner – Sean Logan

County Representative – Angie Hubbard

Parks Director – Doug Smith

Parks Maintenance Operations Manager – Pat Marron

Heather Kahler – Parks Admin/Board Secretary

Members of the public and meeting presenters:

Daniel Hash

Pam Attardo

Dr. G

(00:01:42) Approval of the Minutes

May 3, 2023

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/XuLG2LvjiW5_ofDvOguD_hPvg97BA8UTEo1KNr_I0g06XQ68i_cRAxuCHEUkvgu5.4DPpIKnYDtLAEIzX

Alex Tommerup made a motion to approve the minutes, Jerry Blythe seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

(00:02:12) Public Comment (Items pertaining to this agenda)

Doug Haberman addressed Director Doug Smith on an updated parks master plan. Director Smith addressed the board saying the master plan is in the beginning stages of moving the proposal through the City Commission.

(00:03:08) New Business

A. Beattie Park Addition Proposal Presented by Daniel Hash

- a. Daniel Hash addressed the board with his presentation of donating “Big Sky Blue” a Great Northern Railroad caboose to the Parks Department and placing it in Beattie Park.
 - b. Heritage Preservation Officer Pam Attardo addressed the board in support of the caboose donation.
 - c. Conversation continued of cost, maintenance responsibilities and other details of the caboose.
 - d. Board member Doug Haberman made a motion to provide a letter of support from the City-County Consolidated Parks Board to Daniel Hash, Alex seconded, all in favor, motion passes.
- B. Public Comment
- a. None

(00:43:42) Staff Reports

- A. City Staff
- a. Parks Director Smith reported on the department items of staffing, office efficiencies, projects, revenue increases and maintenance.
 - b. Board member Jerry Blythe addressed Director Smith about the issues with the pool. Director Smith addressed the board saying things are in the works of getting assistance for the pool from City ARPA Funds to get the pool budget where it needs to be.
- B. County Staff
- a. Angie Hubbard with the County Community Development Department reported that she received an email from the Powell County Parks Board sharing information on upcoming events within the county.

(00:52:48) Member Reports

- A. City Commission Report
- a. City Commissioner Sean Logan addressed the board apologizing for not being able to attend the Community Pickleball event that occurred last month. He then thanked the members of the board who attended the board training hosted by the City and County Commission last month. He concluded with a follow up report on the Pet Cemetery presentation from the May meeting and information he found.
- B. County Commission Report
- a. Nothing to report
- C. Helena School District Report
- a. Nothing to report

(00:56:03) Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

None

(00:56:10) Member Announcements / Proposals for Next Agenda (July 5, 2023)

- A. Board chair Dave McGuire asked the board to have a conversation on if a meeting was necessary or not due to the Holiday the day prior. A motion was made to cancel the July 5th meeting, all in favor, motion passed.

B. Board member Doug Haberman spoke to the creation of the Parks Masterplan and suggested to the board they participate in that process.

(01:00:26) Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:34pm.

Proposal for Beattie Park

Proposal for consideration by the Helena Parks and Recreation Department.

We would like the Helena Parks and Recreation Department to consider the following proposal. To receive the donation of one of the first ten 'Big Sky Blue' Great Northern Railroad cabooses ever produced and placing it at Beattie Park. The addition of the Great Northern X-113 Caboose to the existing Northern Pacific steam engine, already at this park, would allow representation of the two great historic railroads once again in Helena.

The Queen City of the Rockies was served by two major railroads prior to the merger in 1970. On 13 June, 1883 a Northern Pacific steam engine rolled into Helena, becoming the first train to serve this up and coming center of the Montana Territory. The Northern Pacific provided 4 passenger trains daily, in addition to freight service by 1890. In 1913 the Great Northern Railway was also providing passenger service to Helena, rolling into the the newly built depot on Neill Avenue.

On 02 March 1970, the 4 great railroads of the northern United States, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Spokane, Portland & Seattle, the Great Northern, along with the Northern Pacific Railway merged to form the Burlington Northern Railroad. On that date the two historic transcontinental railways that served Helena, Montana ceased to exist.

On the grounds of Beattie Park is a magnificent reminder of Helena's historic railroad past, a Northern Pacific steam engine. However, there is no representation from the second great railroad line, the Great Northern Railroad. This proposal could change that.

The family of Dr. Daniel and Julie Hash, if conditions can be met, would be willing to donate the GN X-113 Caboose to the City of Helena. This caboose is in very sound structural condition. The family feels this donation could allow current and future generations to once again enjoy a part of Helena's past. The caboose currently is 7 miles south of Helena at 2520 Grizzly Gulch Drive.



The 'Big Sky Blue' paint scheme and modernized logo utilized by the Great Northern Railroad from 1967 - 1970. Once restored, this is how the GN X-113 would appear.



The current, non-original color of the GN-X113 at it's current location.



The Northern Pacific steam engine #1382 in Beattie Park

Lewis and Clark Co. Heritage Tourism Council

Hi Doug,

At its meeting last month, the City-County Heritage Tourism Council recommended the installation of Mr. Daniel Hash's Great Northern Railroad Caboose in Beattie Park, with the condition that it not be coupled with the Northern Pacific Railroad Baldwin locomotive, as the two railroads were competitors and linking them would not be historically accurate.

As HPO, I concur with the Western Montana Railroad Historical Association's email below, that the two be located in Beattie Park, but not physically attached.

Best,
Pam

Western Montana Railroad Historical Association

Daniel,

It was great talking to you this afternoon about the possibility of an authentic Great Northern caboose being brought to Helena for display and preservation purposes! I mentioned the possibility of such an action at the May board meeting of the Western Montana Railroad Historical Association, and the idea was warmly received. Our belief is that any time a piece of historic and regionally important railroad equipment can be preserved and appreciated by the public, that is a very good thing - a cause worth celebrating and supporting.

You had mentioned that the hope was that the caboose could be put on display in Beattie Park near the existing Northern Pacific steam locomotive that is on static display. Our members agreed that Beattie Park would be an appropriate place to display the caboose due to its proximity to the steam locomotive display, the existing railroad mainline, and the former Northern Pacific depot. Since the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads were competitors, it was felt that the caboose and steam locomotive shouldn't be coupled together for display however.

We are hopeful that plans will proceed to make this caboose move happen, and will back the effort in spirit certainly, and potentially in several other ways. Members of our association have a variety of skills and knowledge that should be helpful in any restoration and documentation of the caboose, as well as publicizing its existence!

I look forward to visiting with you and the caboose soon!

Happy railroading!

Mark Luther - President
Western Montana Railroad Historical Association
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