
Helena Highlanders Association, Inc

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2025

Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Helena Highlanders Association, Inc was held at Missouri River Brewing on January 12, 2025.
- Keith called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

1. Attendance

Executive Board Attendees:	Keith Greaney (President), Rob Rankin (Vice President), Tami Greaney (Treasurer), Christy Leeper (Secretary)
Coordinator Attendees:	Chad MacDonald, Matthew McKenzie, Dave Leeper, Heather Rankin, Jason Pettit
Coordinators Excused:	Amber Guge
Member Attendees:	Tim Gregor

Voting Attendees = Executive Board (less President) + Coordinators. Count=8

2. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Discussion: • No corrections or changes were made.
- Correction: • None
- Action: • Tammy motioned to approve mins, Jason 2nd.
- Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Review of Board Member and Coordinator Positions

- Discussion: • **Changes:**
- Rob is now the Vice President.
- Dave is the logistics coordinator with Rob's help.
- Heather has also been added as a coordinator.
- Correction: • None
- Action: • None

4. Treasurer's Report

Financial status for January reported by Tami Greaney.

- Expenses: • Domain Name: \$19.95
- Website: \$144
- Storage Shed Rental: \$570
- Income: • \$733.95 since last meeting on November 17th.
- Bank Account Total: • \$15,167
- Budget Planning for 2025: • Savings from existing merchandise: ~\$3,000
- Advertising: Increased budget for radio stations.
- Insurance and judge fees: Approximately \$5,000
- Entertainment Budget: \$1,500 - \$1,700
- Future Considerations:

- Potential reimbursement for pipers at \$100 each.
- Evaluating land costs and electricity rentals.

5. Coordinators' Reports

Event Logistics

Reported by: Dave Leeper/Rob Rankin
 Details: No new information.
 Action: No new information.

Food & Beverage

Reported by: Heather Rankin
 Details:

- **Interested Food Trucks:**
 - Rockstar Barbecue
 - Hella Burger
 - Montana
 - Kettle Queens
 - Habana 406
 - Highlander Taste
 - South Paw Street
 - Pennies on the Go
- Heather contacted Hidden Legend for mead tasting.
- Jason suggested omitting the Hella Burger truck for 2025.

Action:

- Heather will create a vendor registration form in Google docs.

Clan Coordinator

Reported by: Matthew McKenzie
 Details:

- Matt motioned for Clan Bell as Honored Clan to make up for 2024. Rob 1st/Jason 2nd/ Passed.
- Chad suggested updating date to add 2025 on quaich.

Action:

- Matt will notify Clan Bell and coordinate the quaich.

Volunteers

Reported by: Chad MacDonald
 Details: No new information.
 Action: No new information.

Fundraising

Reported by: Jason Pettit
 Details:

- Discussed Vigilante Day at Van's
- Look at St. Patrick's Day location for corned beef & cabbage. Possibly located in the Safeway parking lot and on a Saturday or Sunday instead of on St. Patrick's Day (Monday).
- Proposed a Spaghetti Dinner/Gun Raffle Event:
 - Proposed Budget: \$4,000 - \$5,000
 - Ticket Price: \$50
 - Expected Ticket Sales: 300 tickets for \$15,000 revenue.
 - Raffle and silent auction.
 - Prize: 3-5 guns per raffle
 - Location is TBD.

Action:

- Jason to present detailed proposal with numbers at the next meeting.

Vendors/Demonstrators

Reported by: Heather Rankin
 Details:

- Scottish Country Shop (confirming availability)

- Heather reached out to Montana Happy Highlands to potentially bring a couple of cows.
- Matt mentioned Little Valley Ranch in Cascade if no response from Montana Happy Highlands.

Action: Assign vendor responsibilities as planning progresses.

6. Old Business

2025 Gathering Location	
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Helena Rodeo Grounds remains the tentative location.
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Negotiations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keith reported that the East Helena location was confirmed with Chris. ○ Proposed Cost: \$500/day with a \$500 deposit (negotiated down to \$1,000 total). ○ No buckle sponsorship. ○ E. Helena Rodeo is meeting again in February to discuss. This is the first lease for them. • Venue Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arena usage limited to certain areas; no pounding post allowed.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure and confirm the contract with East Helena by February 18th.
Infrastructure	
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress.
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason is waiting for feedback on price of used tents.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason to report on any updates next meeting.
Feather Flags for Honored Clan	
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tami Greaney reported that Fast Signs quoted \$258 for a double-sided flag with stand and setup. • Past collaboration with Fast Signs resulted in about a 20% discount.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim will follow up with Fast Signs.
Entertainment for 2025 Gathering	
Current Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed Entertainment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pipers are confirmed and will have a tent. ○ Tiernan Irish Dancers
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Entertainment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential duo called Second Wind (off shoot of the band, Tra le Gael) their equipment, and their fees were discussed. ○ Or a potential trio called Swiftcurrent (another off shoot of the band, Tra le Gael) <p> http://secondwindmontana.com/about.html Tra le Gael - these are old clips but still representative https://youtu.be/M2S6PvR_IN4?si=vmHkVelVchyP_zhC https://youtu.be/C3JwcVbuvGw?si=zoyj5_3vp60gmKjO https://youtu.be/Ctlr4JwdP1E?si=EhSk_ba8oOZZiPY3 </p>

	<p>Swiftcurrent -- these are from September, and you'll see more, of a contradance (which is a bit different, more repetitive, but we also play on stage, and the sound quality of most of them is not great, just a casual video of the dances.)</p> <p>https://youtu.be/4cLo874OOYw?si=hCULSTH5p7IId5GE https://youtu.be/wtXpzZB3nOI?si=SsXz2JyW3H3m0uBq https://youtube.com/shorts/oC9txvh4DS0?si=skI3aO0kf4D0Zoft https://youtu.be/P46NHJQrsTo?si=B1NMKARrZkYAgvZy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solo fiddler, Max Armstrong (performed at the Flathead Celtic Festival) Offers multiple one-hour slots with flexibility for additional performances. Requires basic sound equipment (AUX, XLR cables). https://www.instagram.com/maxbarmstrong/ https://www.facebook.com/maxarmstrongmusic/
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalize entertainment choices based on budget and availability. ● Confirm technical requirements and equipment needs.

7. New Business

Sponsorship Letters	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sponsorship letters are ready but await final location confirmation. ● Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distribute letters to potential sponsors without specifying the location. ○ Encourage local businesses to sponsor specific categories or raffle items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members should find community sponsors. ● Track sponsorship commitments in the shared Google Drive spreadsheet. Christy will circulate spreadsheet with instructions to return it to her for input into the official spreadsheet on Google Drive.
Business Cards Distribution	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members are encouraged to take and distribute business cards within the community.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members to continue distributing business cards.
Vendor Registration Forms and Fees	
Discussion:	<p>Proposed Payment Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electronic registration form submission, subject to review and approval. ● Upon approval, vendors are invoiced for their fee. ● Electronic payments required, no cash handling. <p>Fee Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggested flat rate of \$50 for food trucks. ● Discussed adjusting fees based on tent sizes (e.g., \$25 for 12x12 ft, \$50 for larger tents) ● Fees for 2025 will be waived for returning 2024 vendors and food trucks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All vendors must register and returning vendors will be invoiced for \$0 unless they add an additional tent/space. ● Heather also proposed no camping fees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on requiring food vendors to have necessary licenses.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm tent sizes and adjust registration forms accordingly. • Communicate payment requirements clearly to all vendors.
Open Floor Discussion	
Discussion:	<p>Burns Night Supper – January 25th Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Burns Night on January 25th at the Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls. • This is the first annual Burns Night Supper. Although traditionally formal, this event will be semi-casual. • Event Time: Tentatively set for 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. • Link to purchase tickets: Celtic Cowboy on Toast for \$60 per person • Can also purchase ticket on their website, (like you are ordering food). • Feel free to share the event details with the community.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members who will attend should distribute our business cards and promote the July Gathering.
MT SAAA Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy reported & suggested MT SAAA judges to work our games. • SAAA only charged us for the down payment of \$525 in 2024. • Heather proposal to work with MT SAAA • Rob motioned to work with MT SAAA[†]/ Tammy 2nd. Passed.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy will reach out to MT SAAA to confirm.
Square Reader and Payment Systems:	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on using USB plug-in Square readers. • Decision to potentially discontinue using certain payment devices.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None/TBD

Next Meeting Scheduling

Proposed Date: • February 16th at Missouri River Brewing at 10:30 AM

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Keith/ 2nd by Rob / 8 AYE, 0 NAE – Motion Passes.
- The meeting of Helena Highlanders Association, Inc. was adjourned at 11:23AM.