



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**City of Helena  
James E. Smith  
316 N. Park Avenue  
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September 6, 2007

Peter Brown  
Helena Skatepark Improvement Group  
423 Fifth Avenue  
Helena MT 59601

Dear Peter,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for your continued efforts to raise funds to expand the skatepark facilities in Centennial Park. The past fundraising events such as the screenings of locally made skateboard movies at the Myrna Loy, the art raffles featuring local ceramic art and the skate contests at the park have all be very successful.

The skatepark is used year round by skaters of all ages and skill levels. When I have had the opportunity to stop by the park, I have observed the young un-experienced skaters being mentored by the more skilled skaters, which is great to see.

Not only do I admire your enthusiasm and dedication to the expansion of the skatepark but to improving the public parkland in the city and county by serving as a member of the City-County Parks Board.

Gook luck with your continue fundraising efforts for the expansion of the skatepark. The expansion will once again be a good public/private partnership and will provide additional recreational opportunities to your youth in Helena.

Best regards,

  
James E. Smith  
Mayor

*Great work, Pete!*



## CITY COMMISSION OFFICE

City of Helena  
316 N. Park Avenue  
Helena MT 59623  
(406) 447-8410

September 4, 2007

Peter Brown  
Helena Skatepark Improvement Group  
423 Fifth Avenue  
Helena MT 59601

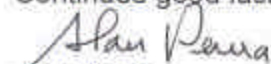
Dear Peter:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to provide a letter of support for your efforts to raise funds to expand the skatepark facilities in Centennial Park, and I wish to thank you for your hard work and continuing efforts as a member of the City-County Parks Board.

In the last eighteen months, since you provided assistance to our "city government 101" public education program, I have admired your dedication and hard work not only to the expansion of the skatepark in Helena, but also to the system of parks and recreation throughout the Helena community. Your tireless efforts are much appreciated.

And as you continue ahead with your fundraising efforts, I am pleased to enclose my own personal check, payable to the Helena Skatepark Improvement group, as I support this expansion and the continued benefits the park brings to the recreational opportunities for our youth in the Helena community.

Continued good luck and best regards,

  
Alan Peura  
City Commissioner



September 19, 2007

Pete Brown  
Director, Helena Skate Park Improvement Group  
423 Fifth Avenue  
Helena 59601

Dear Pete,

I am writing this letter of support for the Helena Skate Park on behalf of the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA). Our program aims to prevent and reduce overweight, obesity, and related chronic diseases among Montanans through a variety of ways including increasing physical activity. According to the most recent Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (2006 BRFSS), nearly 60% of Montana adults are either overweight or obese and this percentage continues to rise. Because it is much easier to prevent obesity and related chronic diseases such as diabetes than it is to treat it, our NAPA efforts place a special emphasis on reaching Montana youth.

Skateboarding has become a very popular recreational activity among young people as well as adults and can be a vigorous form of physical activity. According to the 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) over 55% of Montana high school students do not get the recommended daily physical activity they need to maintain health. In addition, youth that do not live healthy lifestyles (classified as being physically active and having a healthy diet) are more likely to participate in risk behaviors such as alcohol abuse, tobacco, and marijuana use. As kids enter high school, if they are not engaged in sports (over 40% of Montana high school kids report they did not participate in sports during the past year), they tend to pursue more sedentary activities such as computer games and watching TV. We need to provide more opportunities for youth to engage in healthy, fun, outdoor activities.

The Helena Skate Park is well utilized and could greatly benefit from the current planned expansion. A designated area where beginners and younger children can safely learn the skills they need would benefit all participants in the park. It is for these reasons that NAPA supports the Helena Skate Park's expansion project. I hope readers of this letter will seriously consider your proposal for the youth of Helena.

Sincerely,

Cathy Costakis, M.S.  
Physical Activity Coordinator

*In cooperation with the  
Montana Department of  
Public Health and  
Human Services.*

**Montana Nutrition  
and Physical Activity  
Program**

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**Mountains & Minds**

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the Helena Skate Park Improvement Group's efforts to expand the Helena Skate Park. Helena was one of the first places in Montana to get a concrete skate park, and in less than ten years skating has become so popular that we've outgrown the park.

I think our skate park is an important place and it is more than a place to skateboard, it's a cultural landmark that brings people together. Our park has had a profound positive influence on my friends and me, the do-it-yourself mindset and creativity of skate culture has influenced my pursuit of graphic arts as a major.

Skateboarders are creative by nature, and our fund raising efforts that will pay for the expansion reflect that. Over the past few years we've put on skate contests with a variety of interesting formats, sold t-shirts we screened ourselves, had art raffles, premiered videos made by local skaters, put on a concert, and even had a burrito feed to support the skate park expansion. The people involved are all self motivated and actually enjoy the fund raising activities. Unlike more traditional fundraisers, the fun and success of our events are the result of skaters' physical and mental output. These events prove our commitment.

Even if the park isn't expanded until 2050 I'll still have fun raising money for it that whole time. Maybe by that time we can get a 40 foot full pipe or a mega-ramp! But seriously, I've met a lot of people and even learned a little bit during the fund raising process and I'd love to see the Helena skate scene continue to grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Quinn  
MSU Art Department  
Class of 2009