

Helena Citizen Conservation Board (HCCB)

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2020; 4:30 PM

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

Board Members Present (7 out of 12 members required for a quorum):

Lisa Fairman, Chair

Ann Brodsky

Steven Costle

Patricia Heiser

Mark Juedeman, also carrying Brian Fadie's proxy

Denise Roth Barber

Makenna Sellers

City Staff Present:

Pete Anderson, Solid Waste Superintendent

Phil Hauck, Interim Public Works Director

Ryan Leland, City Engineer

Jacki Pierson, Solid Waste

Patrick Judge, Sustainability Coordinator

Others Present:

Matt Elsaesser, Interested Citizen

Cora Helm, Interested Citizen

Kathy Juedeman, Energy & Transportation Committee Member

Paul Pacini, Energy & Transportation Committee Member

Brian Solan, Interested Citizen

Hugh Zackheim, Interested Citizen

Call to Order & Welcome:

Lisa Fairman called the meeting to order at 4:41 pm. She welcomed all participants, and led a round of introductions.

Minutes:

Mark Juedeman moved approval of the January 9, 2020 meeting minutes.

Patricia Heiser seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Juedeman moved approval of the February 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

Patricia Heiser seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Warm Storage Barn:

Patrick Judge briefly described the background of the project. At the July 22, 2020 administrative meeting, the City Commission requested that the HCCB provide advice on the project.

Phil Hauck, Pete Anderson, and Ryan Leland gave a more detailed history and justification for the project, elaborating on Phil Hauck's memo to the Commission (dated May 20, 2020). City staff

responded to questions from the board, and promised to follow-up with the specific design and

estimated cost-breakdown of the project. Phil Hauck encouraged the board to take the time it needs to

conduct its research before making a recommendation to the Commission -- "the best decisions usually take a little time."

Lisa Fairman opened the topic to public comment.

Matt Elsaesser noted that he had submitted written comments. Patrick Judge confirmed receipt and forwarded those comments to the board. Matt summarized his concerns to the board, and indicated he would be happy to answer any questions as the board considers the issue.

Hugh Zackheim expressed similar concerns, as well as his view that the current recycling set-up is not very user-friendly or ergonomic to use.

Denise Roth Barber said the issue shouldn't be considered an either/or choice between constructing the warm storage barn and pursuing zero-waste objectives. The two may well be complementary, but it makes sense to step back and look at the overall plan first.

Mark Juedeman and Makenna Sellers asked about solar panels for the project. Ryan Leland indicated that a solar electric system would be included.

Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority:

Mark Judeman and Paul Pacini described the recent formation of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, for the purpose of re-establishing passenger rail service to southern Montana. So far, five counties have officially signed on as members, with several others indicating an interest in doing so (including neighboring counties like Broadwater and Jefferson). Patrick Judge reported that the City is already on record supporting passenger rail, due to a resolution passed in 2017 and language in the recently-adopted Growth Policy. Paul Pacini requested that the HCCB help persuade the Lewis & Clark County Commission to join the rail authority. After further discussion, Denise Roth Barber moved that the HCCB endorse the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority and send a letter (to be composed by the Energy & Transportation Committee) urging Lewis & Clark County to join the authority. Steven Costle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Waste Forum:

Lisa Fairman noted that several agenda items would have to be postponed, due to time constraints. However, she wanted to make sure to give the Waste Committee an opportunity to pitch the upcoming Waste Forum. Denise Roth Barber asked everyone to help get the word out about the upcoming event, which will take place this coming Tuesday, August 18th, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom. Ann Brodsky described outreach efforts the committee had made to local organizations and individuals. In addition, committee members were interviewed by the Independent Record for a preview story, which should also help with turnout.

Next Meeting:

Lisa Fairman noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, September 10th at 4:30 pm, and that the meeting will likely take place via Zoom again.

Adjourn:

With no further comment from the board, staff, or public, Lisa Fairman adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.

Minutes prepared by Patrick Judge.