

Helena Citizen Conservation Board - Regular Meeting

June 9, 2022; 4:30-6:00 p.m.

1. Board Members Present:

1. Diana Hammer, Chair
2. Patrick Judge, Vice-Chair
3. Mark Juedeman, Vice-Chair
4. Denise Roth Barber, Secretary
5. Ann Brodsky
6. Liz Grant
7. Patricia Heiser
8. Dick Sloan
9. Valerie Stacey

Board Members Not Present: Carlin Onstad, Steven Costle, Becca Boslough, Brian Solan. Lucy Lantz has resigned as she has graduated. Carlin has also graduated but would like to stay on and attend for the summer.

Public present: Dr. Gregory Thomas

City staff present: Leea Anderson, Ed Coleman, Kim Carley

2. Review and Approval of May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ann B moved adoption of the May minutes, amended to reflect that the letter to the Commission was approved *as modified during the May meeting*. The motion passed unanimously

3. Report from the Public Works Department – Leea Anderson and Ed Coleman

Water Rates: There is confusion by some members of the public that the water rates went up because of the water restrictions that were put in place but that was coincidental. Rates go up based on usage. The PWD will be bringing a tiered water rates study to the Commission in the next few months.

Solar Project: The City did receive new bids for the solar project (solar panels on the City Buildings). Bozeman Green Build was the lowest of the two bidders and as such, they will be recommended by the PWD to get the contract. The goal is to get the solar panels put up on the City Shop by the end of September, assuming there are no issues with supplies.

Ann asked about the timing of the approval of the City Budget. Ed responded that the budget amendments will be considered at the June 15 Admin meeting and the full budget will be voted on at the June 27 meeting. The June 15 Admin meeting is the best one to ask the City to consider CCB's budget requests.

Regarding CCB's request for \$40,000 in the FY23 budget for waste education, Ed stated that there is money in the budget for outreach and education. For example, we do have a \$25K contract with a local PR firm for a water and recycling video, plus additional money for water and wastewater. The Sustainability Coordinator (SC) position will be moved to full-time, by taking over functions of the recycling coordinator (currently undertaken by Kim Carly) for half the time. So it will be a

Sustainability/Recycling coordinator position. Kim is currently the administrative supervisor, scale supervisor and Recycling Coordinator. She will be taking over the Transfer station operations when her Recycling coordinator duties are moved into the SC position.

Mark and Denise will attend the June Admin and full City meetings to pitch the CCB's budget requests.

4. Waste Reduction Strategic Plan Update - Denise and Ann

30 people attended the public meeting put on by Zero Waste Associates. 43 had registered. The Universal curbside recycling program will result in an increase in assessment fees for solid waste.

Denise asked what happens when the Plan is presented to the Commission? Does the Commission approve, accept it? Leea says PWD is using the Plan to inform the City/County Master Plan that is under development. Ed notes that the Strategic Plan needs to be presented to the Commission and needs Commission buy-in before they can implement aspects of it.

Pat J says the Commission can formally **accept** the report, but that does not mean it is endorsed/approved. That happened with the 2009 Climate Action Plan, which languished since the Plan was not formally approved. Denise noted that we need, at some point in time, for the Commission to commit to the Universal Recycling and Composting collection program (and the ensuing increase in assessment fees).

Ed needs direction from the Commission and then the City Manager. CCB can urge the Commission to accept the Plan at the July 6 meeting.

Leea said the PWD is already implementing somework that is not dependent on adoption of the Strategic Plan, including putting in additional dropoff sites, and increasing public education, especially around recycling but also reduction.

Ann stated that she and Denise will be present at the July 6 meeting and will present

Ed states that the PWD is informing the Commission of the Plan but is not lobbying for acceptance. Staff does not ask for adoption or acceptance. But the CCB can (and will) advise the Commission to accept the report.

5. Officers Report

The CCB sent two letters to the Commission this past month. One on the budget and the other one that reiterates that the CCB asked for expansion and extension of the CCB in September of 2021 and we hope to see this topic on the agenda in July.

There is an opening for a student leader on the CCB now and there will be another one at the end of the summer, when Carlin resides. Patricia has talked with some Carroll College students who are potentially interested.

6. Unfinished Business

Board Retreat - The Executive Committee is looking for input on goals and desired outcomes from CCB members for a fall retreat, possibly in September. Send input to the Executive Committee

7. Committee & Project Team Reports

Energy & Transportation – Mark/Pat

Mark: We worked on budget recommendations on Energy.

Pat: The State has adopted the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code that has to be adopted by local jurisdictions. This is one component of a much larger set of building codes. The CCB should consider advising the City to adopt the Code. The CCB will consider this at its July or August meeting.

Communication Committee – Liz/Brian

Did not meet.

Water – Val/Patricia

Patricia: We are plugging along on the Water tour, a date for which has not yet been sent. Diana is checking on the demonstration garden at the Justice building. GardenWerks is also setting up xeriscaping demonstrations that the water committee is coordinating with them. July 9 is the free xeriscape class and on July 12 and 14 is a xeriscape design class (not free)

Waste - Denise/Ann

No report

8. Emerging Issues / Other Business

Denise noted that the owl does not always pick up on the sound. Leea mentioned the possibility of adding another owl.

Ed thanked Denise and Ann for their work on the Strategic Waste Reduction Plan. Ann in turn thanked the PWD for their engagement and interest

9. Agenda Items for the July Meeting

- Consideration of asking the City to adopt the Int'l Energy Conservation Code
- Update on the Strategic Waste Plan
- Quick run through of the virtual WaterWise tour