

**Helena Citizen Conservation Board  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**July 14, 2022, 4:30 - 6:00 pm  
Rm. 426 City County Building AND Zoom**

**Members in attendance**

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

**Excused/Absent:** Diana Hammer (excused), Steven Costle (absent). The two Student Leader positions are vacant at this time.

**City staff present:** Leea Anderson, Kim Carley

Mark Juedeman noted that there was a Quorum present and began the meeting at 4:30 pm.

The **June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes** were approved unanimously.

**Report from the Public Works Department – Leea Anderson**

The Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction Report is done! The e-version is on the City's website.

From here on out, Ed will not attend the CCB meetings. Going forward, the Sustainability Coordinator and Leea will attend on behalf of the Public Works Department.

Sustainability/Recycling Coordinator Position Update: There were eight applicants. Leea Anderson, Pete Anderson, Jacki Pierson, Ed Coleman and Jake Garcin are on the hiring committee. The goal is to have the new person in the position by mid-August.

Leea asked that we cc her with requests, emails, and meetings, so she knows what is going on and can answer Qs.

Solar Panels: The approvals to increase the budget authority for the Solar panel project is going before the Commission on July 25<sup>th</sup> (because it was budgeted for \$100K but lowest bid came in at \$122K). Leea attributed the increase in cost to a general increase in materials cost rather than ground-mount vs. roof mount.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: City just got revisions back from DEQ on the EV charging stations contract – locations needed to be amended. They will be at the Jackson Parking garage and the Bill Roberts Golf Course. Leea noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Garage and the Carousel needed a major overhaul to house the added energy pull for those charging stations - \$11K for the Carousel alone, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue site was going to cost close to \$15K-\$20K for the upgrades. That was too much so those sites were dropped.

There was some discussion regarding why the electrical infrastructure was not suitable without overhaul, which was a surprise.

The City is working on places where the electric infrastructure has been upgraded, so more EV charging stations could be implemented later

Annual Sustainability Report – Leea stated that she received the calendar year 2022 data from DEQ, though Pat J inquired about the November 2022 data that was originally missing. Leea assured Pat that she now has the full data. The new Coordinator will start working on that report, as one of their first tasks.

### **Officers' Report –**

Mark: The CCB did attend some of the budget hearings, one Administrative and one Commission meeting and made our pitch for our additional funds, but those requests were not granted. We have not had a response from the Commission on extending the CCB.

Pat J expressed frustration with the overall effectiveness of the CCB, since the Commission has not really responded to the CCB, including budget requests, letters to expand the Board or the request to have a Commissioner assigned to the CCB to improve communications.

Ann: Do we go to the City Manager and ask to get on the Commission agenda? She suggests the Executive Committee speak to the City Manager.

Denise: Should we put together a letter for the CCB explaining what we asked for in the budget and didn't get and what the implications are for not getting them?

Mark: How do we get the Commission to interact with the CCB so we can have the discussions?

Denise: Diana and Mark might want to reach out to the Commissioners individually and ask about this.

Action: The CCB will contact the Commissioners about getting on the agenda

**Waste Reduction Strategic Plan Update: What's Next?** - Denise and Ann

After some discussion, Denise moved and Ann seconded the motion that the CCB send the letter (the draft of which was in the packet) to the Commission, asking them to **accept** the Plan. The motion passed 8-1.

To ensure everyone votes and that the votes are calculated easily and accurately, Leea noted that Zoom does have a polling feature so we can create a Poll ahead of time when we know there is going to be a vote taken during the meeting.

**Recommendation to Commission re: Adoption of 2021 Energy Code** – Mark and Pat

Pat: spoke with Kim Mack in the Community Development Department. The State did adopt the upgraded/updated Energy Codes and the City is required to bring their codes to comply with the State codes so the Commission has very little latitude here. Therefore, the CCB does not need to ask the Commission to take a position.

The appendices to the Code are optional so the City could decide to adopt those; however, no other MT community is willing to go down this path (concerns about affordable housing, etc.) so Pat thinks it will be a losing fight and not worth the pursuit, and Mark concurred.

**Other Committee & Project Team Reports**

Communication Committee – Liz noted there was nothing to report

Water – Val reported that the in-person WaterWise Garden Tour scheduled for last week was postponed due to rain ; it was re-scheduled for July 20th. The Virtual WaterWise Garden Tour is still in production. Val contacted Jake Garcin, the City Public Information Officer, who told her that the City will host the virtual tour when it is complete.

Mark asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Mark asked if there were any suggestions for Agenda items for the August CCB meeting. Mark suggested the Virtual WaterWise Tour be added (if ready).

Mark asked if there were any closing comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 6 pm.

Action Items:

1. Diana and Mark to follow-up with City Commissioners (individually) re: CCB extension and expansion
2. Diana to send letter to Commission re: Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction