

May 12, 2022

Mayor and City Commissioners of Helena
316 N. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59623

Dear Mayor Collins and Commissioners Dean, Feaver, Logan, and Reed,

The Citizen Conservation Board (CCB) would like to establish a reliable and direct line of communication with the Helena City Commission. It is our understanding that other City Boards have an assigned Commission member, and our board respectfully requests that a Commission member be assigned to the Citizen Conservation Board to attend our monthly board meetings. We believe that such a liaison between the Citizen Conservation Board and Commission would be very helpful in improving communication and ensuring that our priorities and actions are working in tangent with those of the City's. Discussions with the Department of Public Works staff, as well as comments at the March 23rd Administrative meeting, indicate that this is a desire of the Commission as well.

Also, on September 13, 2021, the Citizen Conservation Board sent a letter to the Commission (attached) requesting that the term of the Board, scheduled to expire in January 2023, be extended and the size of the board be expanded. We realize that the Commission has had a number of high-priority issues to deal with since then, but we also believe that it is important that the Board be strengthened and extended to support the Commission in directing the City's response to the climate emergency and its implications for our community. We urge you to consider our recommendations regarding the Board composition and term as soon as possible, so that we can continue to support critical sustainability measures undertaken by the City of Helena.

Thank you for your consideration of these two requests, and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Diana Hammer
Chair, Citizen Conservation Board