



City of Helena

Helena Citizen Conservation Board

Regular Board Meeting; November 8, 2018; 4:30 PM
City-County Building Room 326

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm.

Members Present: Denise Roth Barber, Diana Hammer, Ken Knudson, Brian Fadie, Lisa Fairman, Richard Sloan, Patrick Judge, Morgan Shimkus, Hannah Cail

City Staff Present: Troy Sampson, Bridget Johnston

Meeting Minutes: Patrick pointed out a few grammatical errors in the minutes. He then moved to approve the minutes with corrections; Brian seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Recommendation to change street lights to LED:

A letter to the City Commission has been drafted to recommend that the City replace all street lights with LED lights. A discussion ensued with draft edits to the letter.

Denise stated it is a great letter and asked if there is an advantage to doing the City lights at the same time as Northwest Energy (NWE). Ann said Sarah believes City lights are maintained by NWE and that getting the lights done as soon as possible is what the board should recommend. It was suggested that rather than ask to make the changes now, that a cost analysis be done first. Ann said she had talked to Pat and he was confident the project is cost effective and is why she went ahead with the statement in the letter to make the changes now. She expects the City would be in contact with NWE about a project. Patrick asked Troy to weigh in. Troy said he had checked with Glenn Jorgenson, the City Administrative Services Director as to what lights the City owns. The City pays for many lights and it is not fully known what we own and what NWE owns. Troy asked for clarification if the recommendation is for all City owned street lights or if it is for all lights including lights such as parking lots, walkways, etc. Richard and Ann both stated it is for all lights. Troy said that we will check with Howard Skjervem as to what we own and also if we can fit our retrofit into their program, if they have the resources to do the project. Richard said it would be good to know if the lights are scattered. Denise said as a committee they don't need to worry about those details.

Denise said it will take money up front and the City would need to budget for this although the City should get most of the money back through rebates. Ann said that should be left up to the City. Denise suggested the City might have ~~the slush~~ funds to do it now. Richard said it is much better to have a budget line and funds allocated for the project. Diana said she thinks the board should make a request for now and if the City has to budget for next year, they can. Brian suggested it just be added to the letter as a recommendation. Diana said it would be helpful to try and work with NWE's timeline and Patrick said NWE ~~had should~~ already ~~started be starting in a couple weeks~~ according to the Helena IR article.

Brian asked to approve the letter with the two modifications mentioned; clarify that it is for all City owned lights and the recommendation to add budget for FY20 if it cannot be done this fiscal year. Diana said she can see the City saying that they would love to do it but doesn't have the budget. Denise said they should not leave it open ended because we want it done now. Troy

stated that from staff, it is important to identify which lights are owned by the City and if NWE is able to add the work into their current project. Patrick asked Troy if he had any objections to the letter to which Troy answered that he and Bridget had looked it over and didn't see any reason to object. Patrick moved to approve the letter with the edits discussed. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Transition Towns Information:

Diana and Denise tuned in to the ten year anniversary "transition towns" talks. Diana said there were keynote talks and that she'd share them. They talked about there were replicable models and people talked about what worked in their towns. Some were of interest, for instance: -Some ideas were: a "Repair Café" where people bring appliances to get repaired rather than throw them out; "Daily Acts" to do small things such as turning off water while brushing your teeth; "Ready Together" which is neighbors helping neighbors and "Transition Streets" where you start with one street or perhaps a neighborhood small street rather than try to start with the conquer an entire town. Diana said there were good ideas for on the ground work. She suggests the group identify a neighborhood and start a pilot program. Diana said it would be good to communicate with other organizations in Bozeman and Billings. Mark and Kathy Judeman, a-local Helena residents were involved with Transition Houston and Mark is currently is the Transition Town Board Chairmanager for Bozeman. They have He has agreed to attend some meetings and will be a-good resources. Denise said the board could discuss if it wants to be a Transition Town but considering everyone is biting at the bit to do something; she thinks joining the organization might be another highly administrative task. She said there are things they can do now without joining and that they have a handbook. Denise suggested the City could do a xeri-scape zero-seape as a model in a park or somewhere. Lisa pointed out that is a recommendation in the action plan. Patrick said it would be good to know what results other pilot programs came up with.

Public Comment: None

Sub-committees: Hannah said she thought the sub-committees would have met last month. Troy suggested that the regular board meeting be adjourned before sub-committees meet. Hannah said that is the plan. Sub-committee reports will be added to the regular board meeting agendas. The sub-committees are less formal, more like a work session and do not need to have agendas or minutes. Morgan asked if sub-committee members had been decided. Denise said it should be fluid and participation could depend on the topics. Morgan asked if the chairs had been decided. Lisa said it would be helpful to have a point person. Ann said that each sub-committee could pick their own chair when they meet.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.