

Q1 What ideas do you have to increase efficiencies in the City's advisory boards?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Decrease bureaucracy and let them be allowed to disagree with the city commissioners and city manager without the fear of being annihilated.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Let them continue to operate to get citizen involvement. The city manager, council and staff should quit complaining about the important work these boards take on. Besides, this question needs to have some context. What is the city proposing? Rather than an open ended question such as this. I guess it is a demonstration of the inability of the staff to do some critical thinking on their own which is what our tax dollars pay them to do.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	Keep them separate so each board can focus on their specialty	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	Get the city commissioners out so the boards can operate efficiently.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	More volunteers groups to help the city understand what the regular citizens are truly wanting	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Get rid of the city manager	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Not sure	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Include non-management staff on boards. Ones with direct experience. Have a knowledgeable fiscal department that can relay pertinent information to boards.	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	Are they really necessary?!?	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	I'm disappointed that the City combined three distinctly different boards, with completely different purposes without any input from it's customers, the public. My suggestion is to reverse the process and get public (customer) input before making a decision on combining boards.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	include people with a varied backgrounds and interests but include those most directly affected.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
12	Leave them as is.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
13	Meeting frequency could be reduced in some instances.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
14	Be more flexible in your decision making. Before setting a policy, state a measurable objective and if the policy is not reaching that objective go back to the drawing board. City decisions seem so rigid in their application. This is exactly why you need robust citizen advisory boards.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
15	Listen to them and their experience instead of steamrolling with your own ideas	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
16	I think it is correct to re-evaluate the City Advisory Board's agenda and goals to eliminate replication amongst the different boards.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
17	I believe they are working well as is and need no improvements.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
18	It would be helpful to have city officials attend periodically.	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
19	Fire City Manager Cortez	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
20	Establish consistent guidelines for all boards, ensure there is two-way communication.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
21	Hire more staff to cover the work needed to be done to keep current advisory boards.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
22	I don't know that they are inefficient. If there are tedious reports, analyses, and recordkeeping required of these boards, get rid of the red tape and let them do their job.	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
23	Fire the city manager	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
24	Make sure the boards reflect the issues that they have been created to assist with. Boards should not be appointed 'for life' -- i.e. members should turn over. The situation with the Civic Center board and its Chair -- who has been there for over 42 years, is an abomination. Efficiencies will be added by removing institutional dead weight.	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
25	Leave them alone	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
26	The question the City/Oarks and Rec should be asking is "what kind of information do we need to make good decisions and how can we best get this information?" Do we need technical expertises? Do we need help gathering public input from our broader community? Do we need broad and balanced representation from various user groups? Any advisory groups or outreach committees should then be designed to meet these specific needs.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
27	I believe the City's Advisory Boards are being managed appropriately. Perhaps they could have an annual meeting all together where they share what has been most efficient, ie. What has worked well and what has not to share their ideas among each other.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM

28	Having citizens experienced in the perspective topic serve on the boards at 51%. City officials are held accountable when hidden agendas exist that conflict with general public seeking a win win for both sides of a topic, and negotiate until a compromise is made.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
29	Have each board establish goals for the year and focus meetings to align accordingly.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
30	Written monthly reports to the City summarizing current status of issues/projects with recommended next steps and requested action items. Specific written feedback in response to the status of issues/projects and recommended next steps and requested action items should be provided to the advisory board within 30 calendar days. Public comment may also be provided at any public meeting.	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
31	Ensure that the commissioners that are assigned to a particular board attend the meetings!	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
32	City listens to the advisory boards	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
33	Have each include a liaison who is a city employee to improve communication between the advisory committee and city department	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
34	Focus of each board needs to be defined....outcomes of combined boards with widely differing focuses will result in inefficiencies rather than the opposite. There are significant disparities and few likenesses between the golf course, the civic center, and open space for example.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
35	Care that Montana (particularly Helena) lawmen are widely criticised, take due action.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
36	Leave them alone, they know what they are doing.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
37	Ask members to handle some of the paperwork	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
38	Leave the boards as they currently are	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
39	Have inefficiencies been identified? If so, what are they? These have to be identified before you can work to improve them. Also, just because something takes time, doesn't mean it is an inefficiency. As public employees, staff are responsible to citizens - including staffing citizen boards. Relationships are needed and take time, they are not a burden.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
40	Make them less territorial and more useful.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
41	City Boards are important to the workings of City facilities. It is part of the City management's job to work with them. Efficiency has apparently not been a problem until this new city manager took over.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
42	The City website is not easy to use or follow, that would be a good place to start for communicating with our public. Then making efforts to hold meetings and times that allow for increase public participation, far to meetings are during typical business hours which stifles opportunities for working class people in Helena.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
43	The city should listen to them. The demolition ordinance for historic buildings needs to be updated. Include a fee or penalty for late or incomplete applications. Better method of advertising board meetings to public	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
44	I didn't know they are inefficient,.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
45	Keep them	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
46	Timer for comments	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
47	Keep the current city manager as far away from the boards as possible.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
48	Keep the advisory boards as they are and get a new city manager who is in touch with the Helena community!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
49	Listen! These boards are the experts to their area. Don't consolidate them.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
50	Leave them alone. Some of these people have developed special knowledge about their areas. Golf advisory Board members likely know very little about the Civic Center.	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
51	None	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
52	Clear bylaws and proper notice of agendas	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
53	I'm not certain that the current board system that we have is the most efficient, but it seems like the people who are tasked with making these decisions aren't taking the time to understand the current process and how it works or could be refined.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
54	Why there is a need to determine greater efficiencies of these boards?	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
55	Efficiency should be directed at the costs and profits of the buildings and grounds the boards cover.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
56	assign a commissioner as a liaison to each board and have the commissioner informed	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q2 What concerns do you have as we look at efficiencies?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	One of my concerns at this time is the abuse of power and inefficiency that seems to transpire from the city commissioners and city manager.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Lack of transparency by the city commissioners and city manager. What do you really want. Andes Haladay is a lousy attorney and the other commissioners should not be listening to his recommendations. Law requires open meetings and if there are decisions, it has to be in the agenda. Quit hiding.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	Don't try to fix what is not broken	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	That the commissioners/manager won't listen anyway.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	The city ignoring the wishes of the citizens, and simply doing what they feel best instead of what the citizens feel is best.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Seems as though the city commission is becoming a dictatorship	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	The amount of time the city employees dedicate to advisory boards.	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Privatization	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	I don't think the boards are efficient, or necessary. I have firsthand knowledge and experience with the parking commission board and have heard enough about the Civic Center board to know it's a waste of time.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	Under the previous board structure (separate boards), I had no concerns about the efficiencies of the boards. Combining boards takes a giant step back in time, before boards, when decisions were made without input from the users. Example....before the golf course board, decisions about the golf course were made by non golfers, who knew little about the impact of the decisions. Thus the golf course advisory board was created. Secondly, to eliminate the Civic Center Board will result in a substantial loss of free volunteer time by people who are dedicated to the City of Helena and one of it's finest venues. I assume the city will either have to staff this lost service or we will no longer have the functions provided in the past through the Civic Center	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	let's get things done not just talk about them. think outside the box.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
12	City staff should up their game and keep the boards as they currently are formed.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
13	I'm concerned that too much focus on efficiency eliminates a crucial role played by advisory committees. Efficiency is a goal, but not necessarily the highest.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
14	It's perceived as shutting out citizen involvement. The city's policies have a profound effect on people's lives and businesses. We deserve to have outlets to give feedback to the government. It's also concerning the way city government has obfuscated on this issue. Even the way this question is worded is hostile toward the people who want to more involvement—the question author presupposes that there are inefficiencies, which should be treated as an open question.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
15	That the commission does not like dissent and therefor is eliminating it by eliminating (consolidating) the boarda	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
16	I think some of the resolutions that created these boards are vague and again lead to performing some of the same tasks or they just have a way of intertwining with one another.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
17	None. These boards are set up so citizens have a way to be involved and have a voice in the various areas served by these boards. The boards should be left alone.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
18	Public input and opinions are crucial to success and community support.	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
19	The only concern to the citizens of Helena should be City Manager Cortez	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
20	That the city has already made up its mind regardless of public input.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
21	That you'll take what is already a small sample of Helena Citizens and shrink that even smaller -- giving less voices to each area as well as taking some field experts out of the conversation.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
22	Efficiency usually means streamlining, cutting back, trimming the fat. See answer to question number one; reducing needless paperwork might increase productivity and efficiency	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
23	The city manager	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
24	That effectiveness will be traded for "efficiency"	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
25	Losing expertise you might need	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
26	That public awareness and participation in city activities may be diminished	11/17/2019 8:53 PM
27	More technology should be incorporated. There are apps that help team organization and collaboration.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM

28	Hidden agendas of leadership. Foolishness in spending, and protecting citizens constitutional rights.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
29	The scope of each board is too broad to consolidate into one board. Either nothing will ever get addressed, or meetings will need to occur more frequently. In the later no efficiency has been gained.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
30	Lack of consideration to the opinions of Helena residents, possibility of uniformed shortsighted decisions, growing angst between the city and respected local community leaders and business leaders, not taking the time to clearly and robustly communicate and understand important local nuances and details particularly when large changes being made.	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
31	I think the use of the word "efficiencies" is a smokescreen... an excuse to silence citizen participation. What are the inefficiencies?	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
32	Concerned city is being unrealistic when it comes to wanting to combine boards. Each board was created for a purpose and is necessary to ensure citizens have input.	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
33	That you are estimating the number of hours city staff is spending on dealing with advisory board matters and don't seem to really know or be tracking it. It comes across as a huge burden and yet, what could they possibly be spending that much time doing? Is it always or just in recent months with the large amount of change and turnover?	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
34	If the Commission's decisions are made without significant community input, the value of those decisions will be lessened and less likely to be supported by the community.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
35	Have people spoken about one collective topic for years without any action being taken or consideration of action on the surface conversation?	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
36	what can be inefficient about a volunteer board?	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
37	Eliminating institutional knowledge	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
38	All boards have their own individual interests.	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
39	Who sits on the advisory councils? Are they people that look at these meetings as a social hour or as business meetings with a goal of getting things done? Is there an agenda and is it followed? Are there subcommittees used to work out the details on specific items and bring back bigger concepts to the larger group? Utilize some project management skills to keep the meetings focused. As I've noticed with lots of things in Helena, a lot of people look at these types of groups like social clubs and not to get actual work done.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
40	Need to gather actual data about the time it takes to support by having employees write down hours for 2-3 weeks. Then compare that to what is accomplished by the boards, their impact.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
41	That you will combine all the boards. That makes no sense. They have worked well as separate boards even though the present city manager looks upon them as a "burden." These are boards that represent totally different city facilities. It will certainly dilute their effectiveness if you combine them.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
42	That fewer opinions will be gathered, that changes will not occur in a transparent manner, that Helena will become government by clique.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
43	I am concerned you will get rid of boards you find inconvenient (which would be immoral and corrupt)	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
44	What specific inefficiencies exist?	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
45	Anna Cortez and Wilmot Collins are not competent in their positions.	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
46	That Cortez is ruining our city	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
47	The unique idiosyncrasies of Helena are being lost in an attempt to make the city more 'efficient.'	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
48	That city manger and her cronies want to eliminate the voice of the citizens so they can do as they will!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
49	The people of this community matter and their input should be valued. 60 hours a month....listening to the people it this community....when you work for the community. sounds like time well spent.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
50	Who is the "we" and what prompted this foolishness?	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
51	I think the city is looking at eliminating boards who have done so much to raise money to improve city facilities. That concerns me.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
52	I am concerned that the elected officials and city staff did not explain their concerns at the 11/15/19 Listening Session. How can you look to improve the efficiency if you don't share what you perceive as the problem?	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
53	Efficiency will be a code word for eliminating public participation	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
54	City commission and city manager engagement with the Parks Board, and parks related issues, has negligible. In the last two calendar years, city elected officials have been present at 25% of parks board meetings. Additionally, the city manager has yet to attend a parks board meeting. This does not lend credibility to city leadership trying to understand current process in order to streamline and create efficiencies.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
55	None	11/15/2019 8:39 PM

56	That they are only directed at the boards themselves and not the goals of the boards	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
57	That "efficiency" would be an excuse to eliminate a board	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q3 What ideas do you have to ensure that advisory boards have diverse representation?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	What advisory boards need are dedicated people to the cause, which we have, practical thinkers and have Helena in mind as a whole.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Define what you mean by diverse representation? What is the problem you are trying to solve? How much solicitation does the city do for memberships? Not very much! City staff talk among themselves not with the citizens. One recommendation would be to open membership to county residents that also own property within the city. Many times these people are excluded even though they pay huge amounts of property taxes on property within the city.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	They already do	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	Leave them alone and quit micro managing them.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	Make sure advisory board members are citizens of the community and not outsiders (no one outside of the Helena Valley, doesn't necessarily have to be Helena City Limits). Try to find members that represent all geographical areas of the city	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Start fresh	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Not sure	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Allow staff participation	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	There was a consultant firm that interviewed many groups about the use of the Civic Center. They got a lot of feedback and input about how the Civic Center could be improved and the board disregarded it. The board should be abolished. There could be periodic listening sessions for input.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	The recently eliminated board structure allowed for diverse representation. The Golf course board had representation from county citizens (paying users) and women golfers. What they didn't have was representation from someone who used the parks, or Civic Center, but were non golfers, with no desire to waste time with an area where they had no interest.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	see #1	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
12	Allow those people interested to apply for boards when openings occur.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
13	The full spectrum of stakeholders should be identified and considerations made for representation reflecting that spectrum. However, the voice of the 'average' citizen shouldn't be lost.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
14	Diversity can't be forced. Rather than trying to "ensure" diversity you should let it emerge by having flexible criteria for participating. Let the people who want to serve serve.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
15	Keep them as is	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
16	The City Commission should have a independent committee or Human Resource specialist help in the screening process.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
17	I don't even know what this means, "diverse representation". The people on these advisory boards are people who care about the entity they represent. That's all that should matter.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
18	What makes you think they aren't diverse.?	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
19	Fire City Manager Cortez	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
20	Board members should have thorough knowledge for the board they represent.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
21	Keep what we have, advertise those boards better to the community and expand staff to better handle the load.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
22	Term limits	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
23	Hopefully the new commissioners will address it	11/18/2019 12:59 AM

24	'Diverse' representation is less important than 'appropriate' representation. The distinction is that people who serve on an advisory board should have knowledge of the issues the board oversees, should not bring a personal 'agenda' to their participation, and should have the full city's interests in mind when deliberating and making decisions. As an example, currently the HOLMAC is an advisory board that is stacked with inappropriate members. The Chair is the President of a local bike advocacy group that has a very defined agenda and is intent on pushing that agenda, to the detriment of other city interests and stakeholders. Another member of HOLMAC is the primary staff person Bike Helena/ Helena Tourism Bureau. Again, this individual's primary interest is in crafting open lands directions that benefit their particular tourism/downtown business objectives, and in doing so they sacrifice the values of other stakeholders and other city values. At the same time, HOLMAC does not have representation from many major stakeholders who would add constructive opinions and perspectives to the issues dialogue of the board -- such as the USFS, Prickly Pear Land Trust, and the BLM. The public can't have confidence in skewed and biased boards like HOLMAC	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
25	Seek out diversity of thought and background not just different skin shades and gender	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
26	Appoint a balanced group from various interest groups who are charged with providing more than just their own special interests. Boards should seek input from the public.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
27	I don't think diversity is an issue. We should invite people to participate based on their common interests and skills, not based on their gender, age, where they were born or who they like to have sex with... This is a stupid question.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
28	Balance of political parties, transparency, and accountability of individuals in leadership. Seek to use discipline instead of punishment to deal with crime. Respect property owners and businesses with a servant attitude.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
29	As public servants it's important to listen and represent the constituents you serve. Engage in true listening sessions to ensure vested community stakeholders are represented. Our City Manager should be educating herself on our community.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
30	Establish criteria and implement criteria	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
31	Continue the application process that currently exists and make sure the commission appoints diverse representation	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
32	What proof is there that they are in fact not diverse today? Why is the city unhappy with the current board membership?	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
33	A better process for getting people involved on them and reaching out for specific areas of skill or focus to broaden input.	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
34	The most important attribute of a good board member is an interest in the focus of the board. With that as a requisite attribute, each board and each Commissioner should share the view and seek members from all across the spectrum of city residents, recognizing that our Commission serves every community member regardless of economic, racial, ethnic, and social strata.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
35	None	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
36	That's the dumbest question ever, get rid of the out of staters, that's diverse enough.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
37	Discuss size of boards and reserving certain seats for critical constituencies	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
38	Appoint bonivied members through an interview process	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
39	Definitely term limits and put out a broader message of when positions are up. Keep your website updated. Post some news about what the boards are doing. I do believe that the people on the boards need to live in the city (not the valley, unless they are paying taxes for those programs), and they need to have a couple of years of living in Helena under their belt. We need people to understand the issues in Helena before trying to change them.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
40	Term limits, plus have recruitment goals that stress diversity. Can be gender, age, race, sexual orientation	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
41	Advertise and get the information out to the public when there are vacancies on the boards. Often, people are interested in serving, just perhaps unaware that there are openings.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
42	Finding times and locations that allow for increased participation, which would mean holding meetings on Saturdays, using "pop up" locations, and having several meeting opportunities. This survey is a good example of how to reach out in the digital age.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
43	Applicants for board membership are typically few. Don't impose too many additional restrictions	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
44	Elections can determine the makeup of these boards and subsequent diversity. Appointment will not ensure diversity, though it may occur.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
45	The current boards already have a diverse representation.	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
46	None	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
47	Have multiple advisory boards.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
48	Keep the advisory boards as they are and don't change anything. If you combined boards you are reducing citizen input!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
49	More outreach to the community to make the opportunity to participate an option!! Advertise it!	11/16/2019 3:37 AM

50	Leave them alone and let interested citizens decide, not the Manager.	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
51	Establish guidelines for board membership, perhaps limiting terms for some positions	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
52	There needs to be oversight by elected officials and city staff to see that this has occurred. It is obvious that HOLMAC has lacked diverse representation, oversight, and transparency. I cannot comment on the other advisory boards.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
53	Make sure diversity is diversity of viewpoints, not just token representation from socio-economic classes.	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
54	Any time that you're looking at diverse representation on anything, you must look through the lens of "How would this better serve the public?" The City Commission approves all board members for any city board. It is up to them to decide if a person is qualified. If they see areas where we can be more diverse in our representation, then I suggest they explore that on their next board confirmation agenda item. If there is a feeling that boards lack diversity, then this is something that they can rectify.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
55	Ensure size of board allows for good representation of stakeholders	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
56	It is not possible to ensure that boards are diverse. Strange and leading question. Is the city commission diverse? Who decides what diverse means.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
57	Commissioners should continue to appoint members.	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q4 What concerns do you have regarding diverse representation?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think the problem starts with the city commissioners and city managers appear to be limited span thinkers and little openness to people who think differently from them	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Define the problem for me and perhaps I can give some input in this question. What problems do you have with representation. Unless you want to hand pick participants to do your bidding.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	None	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	None	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	I fear the city will allow paid advisors from outside the Helena Valley to represent the citizens wishes, when they don't actually know what the citizens want.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Too many non native Montanans serving	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	I have concerns on the Helena citizens council.	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Way to top heavy	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	The representation in place now isn't diverse!! The civic center board has been the same group of old people for 40 years!! Why aren't they getting great shows? Why is the CC sitting empty 3/4 of the time?!? Why do we have to drive somewhere to see acts?!	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	None	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	HOLMAC should be disbanded or at least restructured to more accurately represent all of the user groups. It was co-opted by a handful of rabid bikers a few years ago and they have been advancing their own agenda at the expense of all other users!!	11/20/2019 6:15 PM
12	be careful not to get over represented by special interests.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
13	None.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
14	Diverse is perhaps not the right word to use in a community like Helena. I don't have any concerns about representation that reflects the full stakeholder spectrum. These committee meetings are open, and everyone should feel welcome to attend. Regardless of formal representation, any voices that care to be heard should be.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
15	The more diversity is attempted to be enforced, the more special interests will capture the process and subvert it to there agendas. It's better to ignore diversity altogether.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
16	That the city commission is not diverse ideologically and eliminating the boards eliminates diverse experience	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
17	I think we need to have a wide ranging perspective from a varied populace as to how our City develops.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
18	I have no concerns.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
19	My concern is the city staff have no history or information on history and makeup of boards. Ms. Cortez has not been to one our GAB meetings, and really has no idea what we are made of.	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
20	City Manager Cortez listens to herself only. She is the opposite of diverse.	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
21	One large board for all concerns would not be representative of the individual boards.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
22	The less people the city gets involved, the worse.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
23	None	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
24	The current commission can't look beyond like thinking people	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
25	Diverse representation cannot be biased representation that brings personal bias and an agenda to their role. Objective, thoughtful people who know the issues, are open to others perspectives and have the long term interests of the city in mind foremost should be who you are looking for.	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
26	That people are chosen because they believe the same way as administration	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
27	That we force people to participate based on their gender, age, origin, faith... Rather than their genuine interests and skills.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
28	Too many ideas of political agenda that impedes on the rights of conflicting political and moral value. Room should be made for both to work together constructively.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
29	None.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
30	It should be weighted to match the diversity of our specific community	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
31	The Commission gives more attention to disgruntled complainers than they do to the advisory board members that participate through a formal process	11/17/2019 5:44 AM

32	None...I've seen no information as to how they are not diverse.	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
33	It may require some current members of the boards not continue in their role and be replaced to get to diverse representation and that will cause angst and could be misconstrued.	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
34	Only concern is that each board member and each Commissioner be cognizant and aware of the value diverse representation on boards bring....the overriding need being interest in the board's focus.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
35	Municipal area residents should have a fraction of a voice that actual Helena residents have at a minimum.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
36	No concerns.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
37	Excluding knowledgeable people	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
38	None	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
39	Again, I think there are a lot of people that might be interested that don't really understand the issues in Helena. We have seen it before where a person moves to town and wants to change things right away. I am completely for change, but informed change.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
40	None. Will bring diverse ideas to the table and will support more diverse usage of facilities. My concerns are if boards are unwilling to be diverse	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
41	My main concern is that without diverse representation, it is fairly easy for one special interest group to take over any one board.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
42	None, I am more concerned with too few voices in the mix, not too many.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
43	Still need board members approved by city, city may choose "yes men" not most qualified	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
44	Diverse reps offer a variety of perspectives and contribute to transparency and confidence in civic management.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
45	Stupid leading question	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
46	that it doesn't really matter because Cortez will do what she wants and ruin us	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
47	I don't, but the theme of the questions is telling.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
48	I have concerns that the city manager and her cronies are trying to combine the boards reducing the diverse representation!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
49	I want the people who live her and that love this community to be heard....not the people who are USING Helena as a stepping stone for their career. (I am talking about you Cortez)	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
50	none	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
51	Representative should have particular skills and professional qualifications. Representatives should not find the advisory boards as a way to promote the agenda of a small special interest group.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
52	That "diversity" does not include diverse opinions, just ethnographic diversity for appearances' sake.	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
53	None currently.	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
54	It is difficult to populate a board. Membership is the key concern. What is the motivation for serving on a board? That would be the concern.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
55	none	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q5 What do you see as the most important role(s) of an advisory board?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Learn and take into consideration the present needs of the field they serve and come up with the best proposals to solve them. Take a stand for what is best for the people of Helena and encourage healthy growth, even if it doesn't fit the agenda of the commissioners or the city manager.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	To be liaisons between citizens and the city staff. To use their ideas to ensure utilization of services offered such as use of the civic center. In addition, to make sure the costs of using the services are effective and not burdensome to the citizens. Government people do not know how to manage a business, they just keep passing costs on to the taxpayer. The city has an RFP out for consulting services for economic development in Helena. What do we pay staff for if not for this type of activity?	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	To advise the city on how to maintain that entity's success	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	They know their business. Let them advise!	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	Expressing the concerns of the citizens and guiding the city to make decisions that adequately reflect the wishes and concerns of the citizens.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Listen to the people	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Ideas, communication with community, working with city	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Advising	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	The Civic Center doesn't need a board, they need staff that can book diverse acts for the Helena community, turn the center over quickly (overnight if needed) for other incoming acts, and work with local performing groups to provide a great performing venue.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	Provide the city with CUSTOMER/USER input. The boards fully recognize that their input is advisory in nature (thus the choice to put ADVISORY) in the name of the board. Hopefully the city staff is not opposed to some input on the services they provide.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	To represent ALL of the citizens of Helena	11/20/2019 6:15 PM
12	provide city with realistic projects and possible solutions (money sources)	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
13	To represent the voice of people interested in said board's capacity.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
14	Providing a forum to discuss issues related to the board's subject, helping city staff to better understand community concerns. This helps keep the city department responsive to Helena residents.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
15	Feedback to government officials to help better decision making.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
16	To provide detailed and invested knowledge of an individual entity.	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
17	To use established planning guides such as the City of Helena Growth Policy and Long Range Transportation Plan to assist in guiding them to definite agenda's.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
18	Citizen involvement, knowledge and expertise in the area they represent so they can advise city leadership when necessary.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
19	Public input, public opinion plus board members are mostly long time residents... they know helena and how we work. Helena is unique,	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
20	To express concerns of the public to those in management....Which is clearly not the case.	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
21	To communicate public input.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
22	To ensure the city commission is taking in as many viewpoints as possible while still having the ability to make decisions.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
23	Giving input as consumers and people who are passionate and invested in the organization they support	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
24	To keep the commissioners honest	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
25	Bringing an unbiased attitude to their deliberations. Don't put people on these boards who have a personal agenda. Secondly, protect the taxpayer's dollars. The Civic Center board operates at an annual deficit of \$500,000. That money is coming out of the pockets of local citizens and its infuriating that this has been allowed to happen.	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
26	Challenge the administration's decisions and look outside the box for solutions	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
27	Fulfill what they have been specifically charged with.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
28	Providing information, guidance and advice to city policy makers and implementers	11/17/2019 8:53 PM

29	To organize and act accordingly on behalf of community interests.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
30	Make recommendation with an expectation it be considered seriously. Hold elected officials accountable.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
31	To represent the best interest of our community, not individual public servants personal agendas. The boards should be working to improve the economy by ensuring diverse opportunities.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
32	Provide recommendations and feedback to the city	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
33	Broad community representation, providing a vision for the future and collaboration with city staff	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
34	Provide input on needs of the entity they represent and promote services offered to our fellow citizens via said entity. Ensure the city understands the impacts on decisions and policies city sets forth.	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
35	To bring a broad and diverse community perspective that would otherwise be missing to the table.	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
36	Through exploration to develop knowledge of the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and expectations of the focus of a particular board and be prepared to give information and to recommend action to the Commission when needed.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
37	Demonstrating competency of the area of advisory, providing relevant advice/criticism, providing outreach to the concerned community.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
38	Be long term members of this community and have awareness of the history of Helena.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
39	Early warning system to both plan for the future and to prevent stupid decisions from being made.	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
40	To inform the City Commission of concerns of applicable board	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
41	The advisory board is the liaison between the citizens and the governing body. Their job is to provide input, both good and bad, on what the city is doing. They are responsible for being the voice of the community - all of the community - not just one age group, race, creed, etc.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
42	Advice to city on how to best use and promote facilities. Facilities should be managed by a professional.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
43	Study and recommendations to the City on specific topics related to the facility they represent. Gathering public input for these recommendations.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
44	That the board represent the opinions that they seek out, even if they differ from their own personal opinion. Boards must always consider the bigger picture.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
45	Advise city on matters that require specialized knowledge or require additional public input. Economic impacts of changes downtown, water engineering, historic building preservation	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
46	Provide citizen input on progressive management goals.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
47	Multiple boards help make things happen. We do not need a dictator named Anna running the show.	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
48	Honest opinions	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
49	Well, it's in the name. . .	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
50	The most important role they have is to be the voice of the people! They advocate to keep the city manager and her cronies in check!!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
51	to represent what they are experts and invested in.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
52	To know about the areas they represent and advise accordingly.	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
53	To provide input from the public, especially members who utilize specific facilities.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
54	They should be a way to provide support to city staff and also a way to encourage citizens to engage in the process.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
55	To provide input to city decision makers that those decision makers take seriously and not just give lip service to	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
56	1. To advise the city commission on parks related issues 2. To advise city staff on parks related issues 3. To give the public the opportunity to engage with city and commission staff concerning parks related issues that impact Helena 4. State statute requires Parks Board approval for cash-in-lieu of parkland development. 5. Advocating for city departments or initiatives.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
57	Follow it's mission and not stray off main mission	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
58	To have a clear goal .	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
59	To be involved in the subject of the board, explore new ways to operate and serve the public.	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q6 Are there roles you think advisory boards should NOT serve?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The advisory should not be puppets of the city commissioners and/or the city manager.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Should give input and insight on budgets but not approvals. Should not acquiesce with blanket approval of what city manager wants.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	No	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	No	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	No	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Unsure	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Should not be deciding policy	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Discipline. Hiring firing etc.	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	Not a fan of boards.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	they are only an advisory board but should NOT be ignored.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
11	No.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
12	They aren't decision making bodies, and I think it should stay that way.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
13	No	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
14	They should not govern without checks and balances	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
15	They should not see themselves as determining policy, but rather helping the Commission by suggesting direction.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
16	The way they are serving now seems appropriate.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
17	Not understanding the question	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
18	By their definition they advise. They are the voice for certain organizations within city government. They advise the government officials that don't have a clue about certain operations...i.e. golf.	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
19	To provide unrealistic goals.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
20	No	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
21	Daily administration of programs	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
22	They should not approve or deny projects or make final decisions! They should only give recommendations and information to staff and our elected officials.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
23	Final authority regarding policy and budget	11/17/2019 8:53 PM
24	N.A I think the more advisory boards we have, the better the community will function.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
25	They should not advise based on political interest, but in honor of all citizens in its perimeter	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
26	Of course, however this does not apply to our current board purview.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
27	N/A	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
28	No!	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
29	They need to have guidelines of their role and not be the only face of the area they represent to the rest of the community.	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
30	Advisory boards do not make policy.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
31	Chief dishonest point of contact.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
32	No, but there are definitely roles the city exec's should keep their noses out of.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
33	Legal advice, handling personnel issues, addressing lawsuits	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
34	No	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
35	Promotion of their own self-interest.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
36	Actually managing a facility by volunteer committee. Hard to get the best use out of it.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
37	No, city staff need to here from the community regularly.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
38	Make legally binding final decisions without input from counsel	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
39	No, advisors are advisors; not decision makers.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
40	Smh	11/16/2019 5:17 AM

41	No	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
42	Again, advisory boards.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
43	Nope	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
44	They should now bow to the will of the city council or city manager...they should be listened to	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
45	Management	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
46	Perhaps, but I think it is important to know why, after all these years, this current city management thinks there needs to be so much change.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
47	They should not make policy or decisions that impact the community. They should not implement changes without the oversight and knowledge of the public.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
48	To be a substitute for city decision makers getting direct public input	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
49	No	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
50	Strange question. These boards have no power of purse or employment. They only advise.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
51	no	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q7 How can the City better support advisory bodies (not just meeting notes and agendas)?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Those in any City official position should, first of all, remind themselves they are servants of the people of Helena. They also should be accountable for their actions. If we hire a city manager, that needs to take management 101 and is being paid a ridiculously high salary it is not a good fit, for the people of Helena. The City should respect the boards, regardless if they don't agree with them and not destroy them by staining their reputation. That is DIVERSITY acceptance in action.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Facilitate action plans and recommendations. If they are not doing this, they should be let go and staff that have more efficacy should be hired.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	Don't consolidate them	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	Provide support to the boards. Appreciate them as volunteers. Say thank you.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	Record their meetings and post to a YouTube channel so the rest of the citizens can see and here what is being discussed, and can reach out to the advisory bodies if they feel the advisory bodies are going in a different directions than the wishes of the citizens.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Once again. Include the citizens	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Not sure	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	Provide actual data	11/20/2019 11:05 PM
9	No "life time" appointments. Board members should have knowledge of the entity they are serving. Training!!!	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
10	First, be thankful for all the hours of volunteer time given by these people who truly care about their city. Second, don't blame the councils for creating an adversarial situation. The adversarial situation was created by the city changing the councils roles, and not asking customers for their input first. It's simply not true when the current Parks and Rec head states "the majority of staff time is taken up with boards". Further, I was not aware of any problem until the city commission created an adversarial situation between boards and the city.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
11	good city representation.be open to discussions	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
12	Get staff to do their jobs and work with the boards.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
13	Increasing awareness of these bodies helps both the committees and the city.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
14	Give the advisory boards latitude in suggesting policy for the city and look for ways to implement those suggestions.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
15	Listen to them and not threaten to disband them when a board goes public with their disagreement with the council.	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
16	Possibly by providing training such as having the MSU Local Government Center come in an annual basis.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
17	The City can better support advisory boards by recognizing their value and not trying to minimize their importance. Consolidating or dissolving them weakens their purpose.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
18	Participate! Pretty easy solution	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
19	Listen to them. They have more vested interests when our controlling government has zero clue when it comes to certain operations....I.e. golf.	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
20	Try to find ways to make advisory support more efficient--possibly through the use of video conferencing, email, or social media.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
21	Keep a more accurate website with dates and information, things like ensuring we all are on the same page so people don't show up to things like this past Friday's meeting to find out it isn't what they hoped for.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
22	Continue to listen for suggestions, hold frank discussions and respect input	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
23	Listen to what they say and take action. Not just dismiss them since they don't follow their agenda	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
24	Provide them with information from opposing sides as well as the recommendations of govt officials	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
25	Be very clear in what their roles are and what is expected.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
26	Back off and let the Advisory Boards decide, when, if and how they need City Staff's help.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
27	Provide staff support, and funds for mini grants to empower them to participate in action.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM

28	What is the definition of City? If we are referencing the City Manager and Commissioners, serve your constituents. Listen to the people you serve. Regardless of your personal agenda or platform, support what the great people of this City support as a democracy.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
29	Respond to recommendations within 30 days	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
30	Listen to them, participate! Ask the advisory boards to contribute in meaningful ways. The current commission needs to listen and be more respectful of advisory boards and less concerned about special interest groups	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
31	City and boards need to work together to improve services and functions of the entity they represent. City needs to be more open and welcoming of board input and recommendations. Value those that volunteer their time and efforts	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
32	Provide an annual planning and listening session with them and city manager and leaders so all members of the board know where to focus time and energies and avoid working against each other as "us" and "them"	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
33	Mutual understanding and respect from the Commission and from advisory board members that each exist to make our community stronger and Commission decisions better.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
34	?	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
35	The City can better support these volunteers by not showing their ignorance of local traditions and getting out of the way.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
36	Clear communication	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
37	Support the advisory board of their concerns and requests if through their valid	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
38	Is there a lot of dialogue between the staff and the advisory bodies? I would hope the advisory bodies are asking staff what they think, do they have suggestions, what are their frustrations? Staff are the subject matter experts and should be treated as such. Maybe staff should help teach the advisory boards - presentations, tours, etc.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
39	Have staff to support volunteer initiatives that are designed to promote and make facilities more useful to Helena.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
40	Be attentive to what they have done in the past as separate boards and what they can accomplish in the future as separate boards. Quit considering them a "burden."	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
41	Make the city website more accessible, it is visually cluttered, make sure the board web pages are easily accessible and that the information is updated quickly. On a few occasions the webpages have been behind the event, rather than in front.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
42	Advertise meetings and agendas more. Actually listen to their suggestions. Maybe have a city council member attend a different board every month - learn more about them	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
43	Online portal connecting citizens to specific advisory boards. A clearinghouse for feedback on issues. Advisory board chairs can moderate.	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
44	You work for these boards and the citizens of Helena. Start with leaving them alone!	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
45	Not consolidate them.	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
46	By not consolidating them.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
47	The city could better support the advisory boards by firing the current city manager and hiring someone who respects the voice of the citizen and who does not consider the advisory boards a "burden."	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
48	By actually giving a shit.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
49	Let them advise.	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
50	Do not limit the ability of boards to provide outreach to the community.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
51	As far as HOLMAC is concerned, it would be a step forward to make sure the meeting notes are consistently published in a timely manner.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
52	Better publicizing of board openings and active efforts to recruit new members	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
53	I would flip this question to read: "How can advisory boards better support city staff?" If we are asking the question at hand, then it seems like the reasoning for this process of "city staff being maxed out on board support" has already been decided.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
54	Not sure improvement is needed	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
55	Attend a meeting if you are an elected official. City employees are directed to attend. Elected officials' attendance is voluntary.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
56	City staff should also try to understand the reason for the advice the board provides	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q8 What do you hope will result from this process?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I hope the city commissioners and the city manager reevaluate their position and what means to be servants of the people of Helena. Be humble and remember to leave politics at home.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	Replacing Haladay on the commission. He is bad for Helena citizens. Getting the city manager to listen rather than dictate.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	What process?	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	I hope they wake up soon before they lose everyone.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	The city will have a better idea of what the citizens truly want and will be better held accountable for trying to force decisions through that aren't supported by the citizens.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	We get rid of they current city manager	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Efficient boards with diverse representation	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	I would like to see the Civic Center being used!! There should be family events, music, authors, comedians- something for all segments of the community. There should be something/s going on multiple times a week! The Civic Center should be self supporting.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
9	Please reverse this decision to consolidate councils. Apologize to the Civic Center Board, and thank them for their hard work, and hope they will continue to put in all those hours on behalf of the city.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
10	A more transparent government	11/20/2019 6:15 PM
11	improved city/county recreation and parks for all, not just a few. everyone helps pay for facilities, all should feel included.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
12	Boards will remain integral to city department operations and planning.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
13	I hope this will increase community awareness of and interest in these committees. That will improve their utility and value to city staff.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
14	It's not clear what process this question refers to. Poor survey design.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
15	The boards stay and are listened to	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
16	It helps to keep dialogue open and agenda's transparent.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
17	That the advisory boards will be allowed to continue as is, no changes.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
18	Ms Cortez is run out of town, or perhaps comes to a board meeting . Super easy to walk down the stairs once a freaking month.	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
19	Fire Manager Cortez	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
20	To create a two-way communication with the city management and advisory boards.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
21	The city will see the value in the few advisory boards it does have.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
22	Openness, transparency, creativity	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
23	Fire the city manager	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
24	Less acrimony. Less institutional ownership by members of the boards in the issues they are overseeing.	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
25	Non-biased solution oriented recommendations from the board without politics	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
26	More balance on existing Advisory groups, particularly HOLMAC.	11/17/2019 9:47 PM
27	Clearer understanding by the public, advisory board members and city managers and staff as to the role(s) of advisory boards Clarification as to which city functions are guided by advisory boards and which city functions are not	11/17/2019 8:53 PM
28	The City realizing that we have very committed volunteers that in MOST cases love what they do to contribute to each unique Advisory Board on which they serve. They each have their own reason for taking an active role based on their interests in serving the Helena community.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM
29	Accountability, and servant attitude by officials and advisory boards.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
30	The 'City' will listen to the constituents they were elected to serve.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
31	Better communication from the top down	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
32	Maintain the existing advisory boards as they are; DO NOT consolidate. Feedback that the Commission will actually listen to, and not ignore as they usually do	11/17/2019 5:44 AM

33	This process is a waste of time and money. There's been no valid issues to justify this process is newwed or meaningful.	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
34	Better communication and understanding of roles	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
35	I hope observers and participants are reassured that public comment always will be welcomed and encouraged and a process whereby public participation will be given the opportunities to impact public policy through vigorous explorations of needs and well researched activities of various aspects of advisory board focuses.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
36	An active police force that responds to crime.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
37	Less reliance on out of town/out of state nitwits.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
38	Not seeing boards as the enemy	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
39	Benefit all residents and visitors to the city	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
40	From reading the article in the IR - 2 things stand out to me. 1. Ana Cortez using the word BURDEN. I understand what she means, but never, ever is engaging the public a burden - and that word shouldn't be used like that. I hope that the City understands that as public employees, this is a MAJOR part of their job. Amy Teegarden understands how important those relationships are for getting anything done. 2. The idea that somebody has to be an EXPERT in a specific field (golf or the arts) to serve on a specific board. The goal of these boards is to make things better and some times that means thinking about things in a different way. Most of the times it is the process that needs to improved and you don't need to be an expert for that - you need to have the desire to learn about and work to improve the process.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
41	More professional management of civic Center and other helena facilities.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
42	I hope you will leave them as separate boards. I hope the word "burden" will not be used again as a description of these boards.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
43	Citizen engagement in the future of Helena.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
44	Increased awareness of the boards, the time volunteers put in to try and help the city	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
45	Moving policy and decision making forward. Implement commission decisions, implement Master Plan design, cultivate interest in private investment, enhance quality resources managed by the City, accountability at all levels,	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
46	That the mass exodus you have created will halt.	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
47	Cortez out. No change to advisory boards.	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
48	Transparency.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
49	The firing of the current city manager!!!	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
50	That we will make it clear that you can't come to Helena or Montana and use us for your own personal gain. Come on City Council. Listen. Hear. Act.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
51	Fire the manager.	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
52	That the city will recognize how much the advisory boards have assisted the city to improve its facilities.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
53	I cannot answer that question because I am not knowledgeable about why this process was started. And, I heard that the decision has already been made. So, if that is the case, this process is a sham. Just an opportunity for someone to check the box stating that their was a public meeting where people could comment.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
54	Advisory boards the city actually listens to	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
55	I hope that policy makers will engage with the current process and make an informed decision about how proposed changes will benefit the public, make decisions more transparent and give city and commission staff access to to advisory boards. I would welcome the commission to engage with the boards, that consist of representatives that they have confirmed, and use them as advocates for their various programs.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
56	Boards remain, and the City does not try to solve problems that don't exist because of a relative few angry citizens who didnt get their wsy	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
57	To have a better understanding of "why". The process has not been discussed. The end result has been stated in print. " To consolidate current boards. To what end?	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
58	a better run city	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

Q9 What concerns do you have about this process?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	My concern is the abuse of power that seems to transpire and how it seems to show signs of a totalitarian regime, masked by hollow references to progress, equality, diversity and so forth.	11/22/2019 9:40 PM
2	The process is poorly formulated. The city has not laid out their thoughts or recommendations for citizens to comment about. You must have thoughts.	11/22/2019 5:36 PM
3	What process?	11/22/2019 3:07 AM
4	I believe it is just a smoke screen that will be ignored by the commission.	11/21/2019 8:37 PM
5	That the city will potentially hire members from out of the area to tell them what they want to hear, allowing city leaders to force things on the citizens that were never wanted.	11/21/2019 3:03 AM
6	Citizen's concerns are not taken into consideration	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
7	Not sure	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
8	I am concerned that there is so much pushback from a few people in the community. Change is needed and people need to give up their empires.	11/20/2019 10:49 PM
9	The process was a sham. The mistake was done without asking for input from the customers. Get input from your customers and think things through with the help of the boards prior to making this kind of decision. I thought this input was to be confidential. I see you are asking for names and addresses. I will attempt to send these comments without my personal information.	11/20/2019 6:50 PM
10	effectiveness over time. are board members contriuting or just wasting their time. realistic expectations should be at the forefront.	11/20/2019 2:05 AM
11	That the commission, mayor, manager, and department heads will not listen to residents and the board, instead will act in their own interests.	11/20/2019 1:12 AM
12	I'm concerned that this process has a predetermined outcome. I didn't see any suggestion that city staff were concerned about the time they spend with committees. There is no analysis of the burden created by these bodies or how onerous it is. I worry that this process will end with reduced advisory committees, and that is exactly opposite of where the city should be heading. City staff have spent a tremendous amount of time dealing with individual issues in the last few months. Their time would be better spent with a more robust dialogue in advisory committees. It makes no sense to combine Parks/Rec/Open Lands committees due to the lack of overlap. That would lead only to longer, less efficient meetings, and reduce stakeholder interest in participation. Again, that is exactly opposite of the direction the city should be heading.	11/20/2019 1:08 AM
13	Assuming you mean the process of eliminating advisory boards, then the process has been tainted by the perception that it was designed to eliminate public input into government.	11/19/2019 11:21 PM
14	That the city appears to be seeking to silence dissent	11/19/2019 11:00 PM
15	When communication breaks down and people and board's lose their vision.	11/19/2019 10:41 PM
16	The City has been less than upfront about this entire process. The decision to consolidate or dissolve certain boards was made long before any input or open discussion was sought. I feel these boards have been in jeopardy from the beginning.	11/19/2019 3:18 PM
17	Admin is clueless	11/19/2019 7:17 AM
18	That manager Cortez will not be replaced.	11/19/2019 2:46 AM
19	Again, that the city management has made up their mind to eliminate multiple boards.	11/18/2019 6:35 PM
20	That the city won't really listen to these comments and instead will just do what they've been hoping to anyways.	11/18/2019 2:03 PM
21	Nonei	11/18/2019 3:53 AM
22	The old commissioners would just dismiss it and do wha they want	11/18/2019 12:59 AM
23	I think you should be looking at the boards and reviewing their value. Good for you.	11/17/2019 11:07 PM
24	Selective formation to influence decisions	11/17/2019 10:13 PM
25	This process side steps the City having to directly answer questions and for there to be valuable dialogue between the City and the Advisory Boards. It's not transparent at all. It wasn't what is expected and it feels like a training, or team building exercise and is not the appropriate environment for people who are upset and want their voices to be heard. This is a suppressive method to collect information privately, and one can only assume, due to past experience, this "process" is only a formality and that decisions have already been made about what comes next for the Advisory Boards. Which is terrifying to the average citizen of Helena. There is literally nothing worse than feeling like our city is being run like a dictatorship.	11/17/2019 4:50 PM

26	Nothing will come of it. Ideas collected may be considered without respect to the long term consequences of action or inaction.	11/17/2019 3:48 PM
27	That it's smoke and mirrors. The City has lost trust from this community. Step up or expect your demise to follow this last election.	11/17/2019 10:10 AM
28	I am mostly concerned about lack of communication and it feels as though the decision has already been made. I sense city leadership has a negative opinion about advisory boards and is trying to stifle local input, particularly now when the city is implementing notable changes within our community.	11/17/2019 7:10 AM
29	It's a farce! The City Manager and Commission have already made up their minds to consolidate boards in an effort to weaken their effectiveness. The commission doesn't agree with the boards so they want to eliminate them.	11/17/2019 5:44 AM
30	Waste of time....city commissioners have already met to begin the process of consolidating boards.....	11/17/2019 5:37 AM
31	It feels like a hidden agenda at a time when trust is low. Be more open about why being done, especially only two years after a huge report from consultant was done and seemingly ignored.	11/17/2019 5:35 AM
32	It appears to observers and participants alike that the Commission has its road map and is massaging the elements to fit its preconceived route rather than allowing the map to develop from what it learns from participants in this process. I hope I am proved wrong.	11/17/2019 3:48 AM
33	All community concern will be ignored.	11/17/2019 3:01 AM
34	If you need to ask questions like this, you'll never understand anyway.	11/17/2019 2:54 AM
35	Stick notes on paper is a good way to just round file good ideas. People want to be heard, not blown off	11/17/2019 12:44 AM
36	That the boards will be combined or desolved	11/16/2019 7:41 PM
37	It will become too big of a task and will be dropped. If there are true inefficiencies in the current way things are being done, they need to be fixed.	11/16/2019 7:38 PM
38	Just need to gather input and then make a decision. Seems like a mistake to have the first public meeting without the decision makers there. Makes process feel like a sham.	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
39	That more meetings like this will be held without City management or commissioners in attendance to "listen."	11/16/2019 6:08 PM
40	That it is not rushed, and that many oppotunities are planned to engage residents of Helena.	11/16/2019 4:22 PM
41	Worried city will get rid of boards whose recommendations the city does not agree with	11/16/2019 3:02 PM
42	Lack of participation by Mayor and commissioners are listening sessions	11/16/2019 1:53 PM
43	I'm concerned you are dismantling our City	11/16/2019 5:17 AM
44	You're going to complain about the time it takes to go through these survey answers and up your "60 hour" estimate.	11/16/2019 4:36 AM
45	That the process was hidden from the citizens until after the election.	11/16/2019 4:32 AM
46	That the city manager is constantly trying to eliminate the voice and the will of the citizens.	11/16/2019 3:40 AM
47	I feel like our city manager does not actually have any true love for this community or for the people who live her.	11/16/2019 3:37 AM
48	see above	11/16/2019 3:21 AM
49	That the city is looking to terminate boards who have provided valuable input. I think the current city management has an agenda that is going to destroy public trust.	11/16/2019 1:18 AM
50	Again, I question why we are having this process. And, if the elected officials and city staff were serious about wanting comment, they would have publicized earlier, given more notice to people, and had it at a time where working people could attend.	11/15/2019 10:33 PM
51	That the process is just window dressing and the city has already determined the outcome	11/15/2019 8:55 PM
52	If the decision is to consolidate the Parks, Civic Center, Golf and Open Lands Advisory boards, then that is eliminating four opportunities for the public to engage with city staff and elected officials on program and facility specific management. Transparency is also a concern. Scheduling a public meeting during the day with little advance or public notice is not a good way to legitimately gather public opinion. The public meeting on 11/15 was not listed on the city website. The optics on this process are not good.	11/15/2019 8:42 PM
53	I am concerned that the City is fixing something "that ain't broke"	11/15/2019 8:39 PM
54	That the end result has already been decided. That this process is smoke and mirrors. The process is disrespectful to standing boards.	11/15/2019 7:42 PM
55	if the question is what concerns do you have about advisory boards, the answer is none. If the question is what concerns do you have about examining the board process, the answer is that it is an excuse to disband certain boards	11/15/2019 7:23 PM

