



Members Present: A quorum was present (7 members from 4 different districts = quorum)

- District 1: John Andrew, Patricia Christian, Marie Stump
- District 2: Meg Bishop, Nancy Perry, Susan Lenard, Nick Sovner
- District 3: Sumner Sharpe, Margaret Strachan
- District 4: Douglas Hunsaker, Dylan Klapmeier
- District 5:
- District 6: Ben Kennedy
- District 7: Dick Sloan, Bob Habeck, Denise Roth Barber,

Absent or Excused Members: Tom Woodgerd, Gary Dalton, Tyler Lehman, Shannon Stevens, Whitney Bausch, Doris Davis.

Other Attendees: James Driggers, Tom Stoops, Marie Stump, Michele Webster, Lynne Boone, Phil Johnson, Sarah Lawlor, Noel Fruechte, Rebecca Connors, Lisa Bay, Morgan Smith, Sue Kronenberg, Wilbur Rehman, Cheri Thornton.

Call to Order: Chairman Sumner Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Public Comment: James Driggers from Growing Friends is enacting a policy regarding the Emerald Ash borer, when complete, they will bring it to HCC's attention and possibly have the HCC commend the recommendation to the Commission.
Sumner Sharpe thought it a good idea to invite community organizations to the November HCC meeting for discussions. One he had in mind was "Bentonia". Any other ideas are welcome.
Margaret Strachan (HPAC Representative) mentioned the Fall Artwalk November 8th. She commented on the newly designed HPAC brochures and banner.

Marie Stump was welcomed as A District 1 representative – reviewed and no objections from current District 1 members (as per bylaws).

Approval of September 25, 2019 Minutes:
Sumner Sharpe asked if there are any changes or additions to the September Minutes. No changes or additions. Minutes approved.

Coordinator Report:
Sample ballot for November 5th, posted online
New HCC member possibility Marie Stump – District 1
Received new treasurer report as of 9 30 19. New finance employees are in the process of being hired. Soon we will receive a more streamlined report.
Completing office duties of HCC and HPAC.

Discuss Meeting Etiquette and Voting protocols
Doug Hunsaker reviewed with members and public, both the meeting etiquette and the voting protocols.
Sumner explained that in the next agenda item, HCC will be speaking to the motion. There will be 15 minutes allotted for the motion and 15 minutes allotted against the motion. After each 15 minutes presentation, there will be 30 minutes of time for discussion. HCC will consider the motion presented

and ask questions. A vote will be taken. If approved, a recommendation will be submitted to the City Commission. If voted down, there will be no further action by the HCC.

Motion –The HCC recommends the consideration of the low cost, low impact Beattie St. Trailhead Alternative as a viable option for the project. Motion was made and seconded.

Old Business

Beattie St. Trailhead Discussion

In summary, the following comments (in no particular order), were presented and discussed at the October meeting.

- For the Motion
 - The proposed option would be less costly and have less impact on the neighborhood and land. The City's proposal would cost more than the projected \$200,000 budget. The option saves funds which can be used to address trailhead improvements in other neighborhoods, including those on Mt. Ascension rather than focus limited public resources on one location.
 - It would provide about the same number of parking spaces in the City's current proposal, current available parking is adequate, reduces the impact on City park property, and it would be ADA compliant.
 - The preferred City approach, including new and expanded parking with about 50 parking spaces and a toilet, was made before public meetings were held. Citizen suggestions made about lower impacts and other ideas were not considered
 - Public environmental review documents state that there were no impacts from the City's proposal. Suggested impacts not considered include disturbance to vegetative cover, impacts to local wildlife and bird habitat and potential for noxious weed growth.
 - The proposed option would maintain the historic character of the neighborhood.
 - The City's adopted Growth Policy addresses management of the City's open space and other City documents such as the 2004 and 2010 open land documents, support maintaining open space at the urban interface. Open space near a city is rare and should be maintained.
 - Further delay by the HCC to our next meeting, if the motion is approved then, would be too late for City consideration

- Against the Motion
 - Current parking is inadequate, a toilet is needed, space is needed for emergency vehicles, easier use by City snowplows, and should be fully ADA compliant.
 - The City's process was correct. There have been many opportunities for public input, the majority of comments at public meetings was in favor of the City's design. Due process has been performed; and the City has responded.
 - It may be premature to get ahead of the City's decision – there may be further design proposals
 - In-depth studies are needed to support the proposed alternative to back up the proposal.
 - The proposed option would result in vehicles, in excess of available spaces, being parked on adjacent neighborhood streets.
 - It is too late, the decision has already been made by the City Commission.
 - Restrooms are needed for all users.

Other Comments

If the decision is delayed till the next HCC meeting, and the motion approved, it would be too late for City consideration

Recommendation

Following comments in favor and opposed to the motion, following the HCC discussion, the question was called.

The motion passed - nine (9) in favor, four (4) not in favor, and two (2) abstentions.

New Business

Nominating Committee: Schedule and Process

Bob Habeck stated the next step is to solicit three HCC members that may be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee. At the November meeting, there will be Nominating Committee Appointments.

Reports from HCC Members:

LED Street Lighting – John Andrew presented updated information. According to Rick Edward from North Western Energy, tests show that Cobra replacements meet Light Trespass and Dark Skies requirements.

- Options are:
1. Install only Cobrahead lights
 2. Change the language in the ordinance or grant a variance regarding light trespass to allow other decorative options such as Lexington, Contemporary or Acorn lights.
 3. The city can purchase, install and maintain their own lights, and North Western Energy will simply provide a metered service.

Growth Policy Update – Dick Sloan stated what changes have been made in the 2010 Growth Plan. New Growth plan has a specific action items. Denise R. Barber mentions the city needs to consider Climate Change as its overarching goal. Meg Bishop states the Tourism Board and the Mountain Biking Boards' initiatives have not been included/considered in the growth policy language. Considerations: How the city should grow, land use patterns, conservation impacts, growth within the city. Economy must be more diversified. Doug Hunsaker mentioned tourism growth in Durango, Co., and how it was not planned or prepared for.

Homelessness in Helena – Pat Christian gave an overview of the homeless situation in Helena. There is not much affordable housing especially for the homeless population. The Helena Resource Advocates meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month from 3-4pm at the Helena Indian Alliance – they would love to have input from community organizations. Helena Resource Advocates include representation from Good Samaritan, Helena Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise.

Complete Census – Pat Christian reported that the Complete Census Committee have been meeting and will go into full force April of 2020 when the census count begins. Federal money comes to Helena when people are correctly counted. The amounts can be great. At issue is including in the count, people that are hard to find. With an increase in population, Montana may regain its second Congressional seat.

Budget Update - Dick Sloan will delay his budget presentation until the November 20th, HCC meeting.

Adjournment – 9:05

Next Meeting November 20th 7:00 pm.

Subject: LED Update 10 23 19

I know that you and the Commissioners have been awaiting an update from NorthWestern Energy regarding LED lighting. While we plan to provide a much more in-depth report in the coming weeks, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a high level status report. For this report, I would like to address two specific areas:

1. New Construction Requests, and
2. The LED Conversion project.

New Construction

From a new construction perspective based on the existing language of the ordinance, it is our opinion that Cobrahead lights currently meet the dark skies requirements and can be designed to meet the light trespass requirements. At present, a 'decorative' lighting option does not exist within our standard offerings that would meet the ordinance. As such, we believe the three options for lighting as it relates to new construction are:

- Install only Cobrahead lights,
- Change the language in the ordinance or grant a variance regarding light trespass to allow other 'decorative' options such as Lexington, Contemporary or Acorn lights, or
- The City can purchase, install, and maintain their own lights, and NorthWestern Energy will simply provide a metered service.

LED Conversion Project

As you know, following the meeting on July 24, 2019 with the Commission, we temporarily halted the project so that we could address the concerns expressed by the Commissioners and some Helena residents. On September 2, 2019, we provided you with an update on the project and promised a subsequent update once the outside contractor we hired completed their analysis. That work is continuing, and we expect to provide a detailed report in the coming weeks. However, in the interim, our plan is as follows:

- We are awaiting the final report from our outside contractor that was hired to analyze the potential impacts of our conversion project as they relate to the existing ordinance.

- Because the project was temporarily halted in July in

Helena, we have shifted our resources (products and staffing) to other areas within our service territory. As such, it is likely that the remainder of Helena will not be converted until 2021 or later, assuming that an appropriate solution can be identified that will meet the ordinance language.

- For the approximately 400 lights that were converted prior to the project being halted, we will visit each of the locations and make light meter measurements. In cases where the lights fall outside of the ordinance parameters (which we believe are minimal), we will install shielding or utilize other techniques that will allow those Cobrahead lights to meet the ordinance.