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September 4, 2019

To: Mayor Collins and City Commissioners

From: The Helena Citizens Council (HCC)

Subject: HCC Endorsement and Support for the Helena Citizens Conservation Board (CCB) Growth Policy Recommendations

On August 19, 2019 the Helena Citizens Conservation Board submitted to Community Development staff recommendations for the draft 2019 Helena Growth Policy update.

On August 28, 2019 these recommendation were presented by a Conservation Board member at the monthly HCC meeting. The two documents that were submitted to the Community development staff and at the HCC meeting included a memo and a chart.

The memo (attached) to staff recommends “the 2019 Helena Growth policy, makes as it central theme and overarching goal, assuring that Helena grows into a community that is climate adaptive, resilient and thriving”. In order to meet this need, the CCB recommendations would stress the importance of sustainability when considering future actions. Based on that goal statement, the memo recommended four specific additions to the July 2019 draft of the Growth Policy: 1) clearly stating the proposed overarching goal; 2) stating quantifiable and measurable targets for specific actions related to the goal; 3) including language that stresses the importance of climate, resiliency and adaptability as suggested in the goal statement, and 4) include pertinent goals and objectives from the Helena Climate Change Action Plan (2009), and the 2011 Helena Growth Policy.

The second document is a chart (attached) recommending where recommendations from the pre-existing adopted 2009 Helena Climate Change Action Plan and the 2011 Helena Growth policy could be added to the Draft 2019 Draft Growth Policy. An addition by the CCB, included on the last page of the chart, recommends the creation of an integrated waste management plan and exploring the creation of a zero waste management plan.

At the HCC August 28th meeting, following presentation and discussion of the CCB recommendations, a motion was made and seconded to endorse and support the CCB recommendations to the City Commission. The vote (12 yeas), supported inclusion of the CCB recommendations in the City’s updated Growth Policy, so that City policies and actions support making resiliency to climate change the overarching goal of the Growth Policy. Also, HCC support was expressed for the inclusion of policies and actions from previously adopted City documents – the 2009 Climate Change Acton Plan and the 2011 Helen Growth Policy. Those voting nay (6) expressed support for adding a climate change goal based on the CCB recommendations, but were concerned that there are other equally important Growth Policy goals and that it not be the overarching goal. Also, concern about language and wording was expressed by some HCC members.