



Helena Citizens' Council
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To: Helena City Commission
From: The Helena Citizens' Council
Subject: Helena Downtown Walking Mall Maintenance
Date: April 26, 2017

Present Situation:

The Downtown Walking Mall is an important destination for the City of Helena. It has been observed that the lack of coordination and consistency of upkeep, regular maintenance and repair has caused this area to fall into disrepair. Currently, five city departments share responsibility of the Walking Mall: Police Department, Parking Commission, Public Works, Building Department, Parks Department & Urban Forestry. There is confusion about coordination of how maintenance and upkeep of the mall is managed, prioritized and budgeted.

Proposals:

- 1) The five agencies involved in maintenance of the Downtown Walking Mall should meet to create a maintenance agreement or memorandum of understanding stating a common commitment to establishing minimum or acceptable standards regarding the condition of the mall. Define which stake holders are responsible for which areas of maintenance of the walking mall.
- 2) Designate a budget for the walking mall which defines what maintenance and expenditures would be included and provides guidelines on disbursement of these funds to City Departments who perform defined duties.
- 3) Hire a coordinator as a new position or designate a current employee of one of the stakeholder agencies to this role.

Positive Outcomes [Advantages]:

Designation of a Walking Mall Budget and setting standards would allow more coordinated, consistent and intentional maintenance and repair.

A coordinator could monitor and direct maintenance on the walking mall and develop a schedule to ensure regular and consistent execution of said maintenance.

A coordinator would be the "go to" person for business owners and the public to contact with

- Concerns about maintenance
- Vendor regulations, sign placement, etc.
- Other day to day operation items as determined by stakeholder agencies.

The Helena Citizens' Council recommends that the City Commission consider these recommendations to ensure that the Downtown Walking Mall continues to be a viable and successful venue of the City of Helena. These recommendations were approved by a majority of the Helena Citizens' Council members at the April 26, 2017 meeting.