



Helena Citizens' Council
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Date: April 24th, 2024
To: The Helena City Commission
From: The Helena Citizens' Council
Title: Recommendation Regarding Downtown Public Restroom

Greetings Mayor and Helena City Commissioners:

Let it be known that the Helena Citizens' Council, at its regular full board meeting on April 24th, 2024, the Helena Citizens Council voted and passed the following recommendation for your consideration.

Recommendation - HCC recognizes the need for an outdoor, public restroom downtown and supports the proposal by the Downtown Business Improvement District to install a public restroom (such as the Portland Loo) in a safe and visible location within Constitution Park.

Background: The Downtown area is the heart of Helena and has grown in popularity and use and does not have a public restroom. People gathering downtown, as well as shoppers, runners, bikers, and families need a restroom that is permanent and publicly available. In addition, the unhoused population has also increased and they, too, need a public restroom.

The Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) has installed and maintained a port-a-potty in Constitution Park since April 2023 and proposes this location for the permanent public restroom for the following reasons: 1) Constitution Park is the midway point to the prime retail center of downtown; 2) It is accessible to families with strollers and those with mobility issue; 3) It provides 360 visibility to public safety officers from their patrol cars; 4) The infrastructure for water and sewage is readily available in that spot; and 5) The port-a-potty installed there for the past year has been useful and a positive addition to downtown.

The Portland Loo has several advantages that make it safer, discourages vandalism and drug use, is easy to clean, ADA-compliant, with a discrete and attractive design and the City of Billings has had a positive experience with the Portland Loo it installed.

The motion passes – 18 members in favor, 1 opposed.

Helena Citizens' Council Members



Ben Kuiper, HCC Chair