

## **Citizen Conservation Board (CCB)**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021; 4:30 PM

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

### **Board Members Present (6 out of 11 members required for a quorum):**

- 1) Diana Hammer, Chair
- 2) Mark Juedeman, Vice Chair
- 3) Valerie Stacey, Vice Chair
- 4) Rebecca Boslough
- 5) Ann Brodsky
- 6) Steven Costle
- 7) Patricia Heiser
- 8) Denise Roth Barber
- 9) Makenna Sellers
- 10) Richard Sloan
- 11) Brian Solan

### **City Staff Present:**

Kim Carley, Recycling Coordinator

Michael McConnell, Planner

Jacki Pierson, Administrative Assistant, Lewis & Clark County Landfill

Patrick Judge, Sustainability Coordinator

### **Others Present:**

Paden Wallace, Energy & Transportation Committee Member

Cora Helm, Interested Citizen

Dr. Gregory Thomas, Interested Citizen

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Board Vacancy Report:**

CCB Chair Diana Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and welcomed all participants. Diana reminded the group that the CCB currently has three vacancies: a healthcare community representative and two student leader positions. Patrick Judge reported applications have been received by the City Clerk and vacancies should be filled in time for the February meeting.

### **Minutes:**

Mark Juedeman moved that the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting be approved as written.

Patricia Heiser seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Denise Roth Barber moved that the minutes of the December 12, 2020 meeting be approved as written. Rebecca Boslough seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

### **Waste Reduction Resolution:**

Waste & Recycling Committee Co-Chairs Denise Roth Barber and Ann Brodsky presented the current versions of the following three documents:

- 1) CCB letter to the City Commission
- 2) Proposed Resolution for Waste Reduction
- 3) Factsheet in support of the Proposed Resolution

Denise and Ann updated the group on the ongoing conversations they've had with Public Works Director Ryan Leland and Solid Waste Superintendent Pete Anderson (and also the Scratchgravel District Board), and how the current drafts have benefitted from the input of these professionals. For example, the resolution now spells out the close relationship between the City and County with regard to their waste management operations, but clarifies that "the City can set its own goals for waste reduction generated within the City's limits." Because the CCB is a City board, the waste reduction resolution applies strictly to city-generated waste, although the hope is that it will inspire other political entities to set similar goals. The intent was to make the goals both meaningful and attainable, and the Waste Committee feels they have struck that balance. The initial goals are to increase diversion from the current rate of approximately 20% to **35% by 2030** and **50% by 2040**. While unable to take an explicit advocacy position, Public Works staff expressed no alarm at the goals, and expressed comfort with the CCB saying it had "developed the resolution in consultation with Public Works." Denise and Ann also explained that the Public Works Department is pursuing the development of a Master Plan for the Transfer Station and also a "waste audit" analyzing the composition of materials currently sent to the landfill. The Waste Committee believes this study will provide valuable baseline information for the ensuing Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction. After walking through the documents with the group and making some final edits, Denise Roth Barber moved that the CCB send the letter, the resolution, and the factsheet to the City Commission (via email). Valerie Stacey seconded the motion and spoke to her enthusiastic support. Diana Hammer called for further discussion, public comment, and/or comment from staff. Jacki Pierson congratulated the group on its efforts, and noted the importance of waste reduction (expressing shock and surprise at the number of plastic bags she had to collect from the landfill fence after the recent windstorm!). The motion passed unanimously.

Ann and Denise thanked the group, and explained the desired timeline for moving forward:

- Wednesday, February 3 – informal discussion at the Admin Meeting (4:00 pm)
- Monday, February 22 – formal consideration at the City Commission Meeting (6:00 pm)

The Waste Committee will now be turning its attention to public outreach, starting with a presentation to the Helena Citizens' Council on January 27 at 7:00 pm, and a public forum hosted by Resilient Helena on February 9 at 7:00 pm.

### **Energy & Transportation Committee:**

Mark Juedeman reported the following:

- 50 kW solar project at the City Transportation Shop – awaiting word on USB grant, RFP to follow
- EV charging stations – still awaiting resolution of legal issues
- Passenger Rail Authority – meeting with Lewis & Clark Commissioner Tom Rolfe tomorrow
- Green Tariffs – Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula (City & County) reviewing RFP responses
- Energy Performance Contract – RFP to be issued soon
- Fleet & Transit Assessment – Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities Coalition will assist
- Community Solar – \$60k requested for the loan program again; 2021 Sun Run for solar schools
- City-Owned Renewables – looking for additional opportunities in enterprise-funded departments

### **Water Conservation Committee:**

Valerie Stacey reported that the committee piloted its first workshop internally this morning, and will be piloting it to a wider audience in February. The Committee has also been working on a related water conservation pamphlet. On December 17, members of the Committee met with City of Bozeman water conservation staff, for a presentation led by Jessica Ahlstrom. Over the past six years, Bozeman has made excellent progress reducing its per-capita water consumption (~118 gallons-per-day on a production basis, compared to ~154 gpd in Helena). Jessica and her team shared numerous helpful suggestions and resources with the Committee.

**Emerging Issues / Other Business / Announcements / Public Testimony:**

Diana Hammer invited anyone on the call, including the public, to share any comments or questions they might have.

- Kim Carley announced that the Transfer Station will be moving back to 7-day service starting January 31. Hours will be changing from the current 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, to 8:00 am to 4:15 pm (must be out of the facility by 4:30 pm).
- Dr. Gregory Thomas announced that he will be stepping down as chair of the City-County Planning Board, but will remain on the board (with a new chair to be elected soon). He said the Helena valley is facing serious water quantity issues that are exacerbated by loopholes in state law. He invited the group to attend their next meeting to learn more:

Tuesday, January 19 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/96536017392>

The Planning Board is drafting a letter to the County Commission, and looking for other co-signers concerned about the issue of water availability for future generations and supportive of holistic planning.

**Next Meeting:**

Diana Hammer announced that the next regular CCB meeting will take place Thursday, February 11 at 4:30 pm (via Zoom). Agenda items include:

- guest speaker: Open Lands, Parks and Recreation Director Kristi Ponzoso
- follow-up items from the Action Planning Retreat
  - CCB purpose statement, and any additional bylaws changes
  - CCB two-year plan
  - other?
- update on the status of the waste reduction resolution
- other?

Diana's "homework assignment" is for the Committees to finalize their two-year work plans.

**Adjourn:**

With no further comment from the board, staff, or public, Diana adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Minutes prepared by Patrick Judge.**