

Topic 1: Efficiency

<p>What ideas do you have to increase efficiencies in the City’s advisory boards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze repetitive activities of the boards and consolidate or eliminate the repetition• Use technology video conferencing• Wait for new members• Use better agendas and stay on topic• Consolidation may work is carefully considered and implemented• Standardization of advisory board roles and responsibilities, and then look at potential areas of consolidation and crossover• To increase efficiency you need to know the process – does changing process impact efficiencies?• If you want to look at process then are all the steps necessary – do staff need to be there less or more?• Have one board act as clearing house for all boards and triage all input from boards• If there are subjects that are not unique to one board, have join meeting of boards• Provide independent and competent advice and recommendation to commission which reflect citizen input and check city manager actions that are not based on facts or reality	<p>What concerns do you have as we look at efficiencies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficiency does not equal more effectiveness (III)• Consolidation of uniquely different boards will be detrimental to the knowledge base, diversity and efficiency of each board (II)• Efficiency shouldn’t be the goal – sometimes in efficiency, people’s voices get lost – the think the city’s role is to listen to those with various interests and expertise• Consolidation will surely cause some blowback – be prepared• Respecting that advisory boards are separate is a good thing. Not everyone wants to sit through something they’re not interested in, Lumping them altogether will create more inefficiency – please keep them separate• Lack of support from city for advisory boards (4 boards)
<p>Comments/Qs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first step would be for the city to provide the facts and evidence that support the redundancies and inefficiencies and verify real staff time• Where are the identified inefficiencies – need definitive problems outlined• What’s the city’s agenda?	

- I see no issue with current board effectiveness
- Consolidation = less citizen involvement (II)
- Many segments of the community will be impacted by your decisions
- The governments' transparency and community involvement processes are inherently inefficient
- Good government may not be efficient – but it allows good public input and transparency
- Civic center activity has no connection to Parks and Rec
- I see no issues with current boards/efficiencies
- How many FTEs make up the 30-60 hours/month – I volunteer approximately 160 hours/year as a non-paid volunteer
- The city doesn't value civic center work
- Leave the civic center as it stands – its more facility vs parks
- If the civic center board went away, who would raise \$\$, who would do the events?
- There is value in coming together, and value in very specific boards
- Civic center: really love the building, chandeliers

Topic 2: Diversity & Representation

<p>What ideas do you have to ensure that advisory boards have diverse representation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wider, more frequent notice of vacancies • Meeting times varied to allow wider participation • Various boards increase diversity as they meet with people in the community • To obtain diverse meetings, they need to be held when a diverse population may attend - 10am on a work day limits participation • Need to provide meeting times for working people – evenings or weekend time 2-4/year will increase community participation 	<p>What concerns do you have as we look at diverse representation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adv committees need to represent the citizens/community and not just perceived interests (III) • Expertise and experience is more important than diversity • Some members don't participate regularly • Diversity is not needed for Bill Roberts – the only quality needed is to be interested in good golf • Consolidation will limit diversity & public input
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- Comments/Qs:**
- I see no issue with civic center board diversity (II)
 - Please define diversity (II)
 - Diversity & representation are not improved by consolidation of boards (II)
 - Golfers don't want non-golfers to be on a board to advise the golf course staff

- This promotes racism – we should be looking at people’s skills and abilities not the color of their skin or where they were born – this is stupid
- I have no concerns – these are volunteer boards and citizens make their own priorities

Topic 3: The Role of Advisory Boards

What do you see as the most important role(s) of an advisory board?

- To listen to qualified informed individuals and communicate
- Advisory boards provide additional eyes to provide oversight to city processes
- To speak on behalf of the people and to keep the city accountable to the people.
- Providing advice and input to relevant city operations
- Improve the group/building I represent – raise \$\$ for the building – ensure the civic center is safe and open to all users
- Gather information, discuss and report – create ideas – identify issues – create effectiveness
- Advisory boards make process efficient by gathering and organizing info on specific issues for decision makers
- To have a better and more solid point of view across the city
- To represent the best interests of the people of Helena and act with honesty, integrity and good faith – unlike what we see from top management city folks

Are there roles you think advisory boards should **NOT** serve? If so, what roles come to mind?

- Advisory boards should not govern
- Boards do not formulate policy, but should provide feedback
- Board members must be upfront about their affiliations with special interest groups

Comments/Qs:

- HPAC is unique in being able to fund installations – it should continue
- When the city seeks to eliminate or consolidate advisory boards, it looks as though the wishes & desires of the people don’t matter to the city. Please don’t do this.

Perhaps some of these advisory boards could include more volunteers while maintaining the paid advisory positions?

- Are we fixing a problem or looking for one?
- What advisory boards are next on the chopping block?
- What are the specific problems that precipitated this exercise?
- I hope we don't screw up advisory boards with this process
- I truly believe that after being around golf and the civic center for 45 years, that the current board structure and operation is very efficient

Topic 4: Staff & Support

How can the City **better support** advisory bodies (not just meeting notes and agendas)?

- I'm pleased with the level of support HPAC receives with present staff – Peggy's great!
- Love working with Civic Center staff – they welcome our input and support that we give financially and as an active voice on the facility

Comments/Qs:

- What will happen to the volunteers affected by these decisions?
- Is this issue coming from the staff or from the top?
- Can you identify what the inefficiencies are?
- 30-60 hours/month is not a lot of time given the range of community interests and involved community members and the 4 official advisory boards

Topic 5: Process

What do you **hope** will result from this process?

- I hope the City is gathering useful information
- Advice is always good – “advisory” comes from the word advice
- I want to be part of a board that I'm passionate about – other board members would agree

What **concerns** do you have about this process?

- Each advisory board is important in its own function – I would not be good on the open lands board because I have no knowledge in this area – people with knowledge should serve on this board
- This process is not satisfactory – where are the people who will listen?
- That the City will use advisory boards as experts in their field and won't make decisions in that area without input

Comments/Qs:

- What are the city ordinances, laws and rules that establish the advisory boards and what are the steps to change the structure?
- What are the issues/concerns with the current structure? What redundancies has the City/commission identified? (IIII)
- Why doesn't the Parks & Rec Dept identify the issues and their recommendations and put them out for citizens to respond/react to? They must have thoughts on this
- Why? In order to produce outcomes the problem/concern must be clearly identified – "potential" is not a definitive statement
- Disappointing that the commission asks for input after moving the civic center to Parks & rec
- I expected an interactive town hall meeting – this is not okay!
- The best golf advisory board will contain golfers
- What data has the city compiled to identify their issues? (Ex: # of recommendations from boards implemented/not implemented over what period of time?) (II)
- Advisory boards are absolutely necessary
- Are we involved in a process where we have a solution in search of a problem?
- How was it designated that Parks & Rec would be the guinea pig for restructuring boards?
- This was not a listening session – wanted community interaction, wanted to hear from other board members in real time
- This meeting seemed very confusing – it is like the decision is made and lets look at future process to support this decision – very poor communication and management (IIII)
- Is the goal reduction of costs vs. the cost of reducing the number of engaged citizens?
- You did not present information about potential consolidation options that are being considered
- Process should have been made clear in public notice – formal involvement of commissioners needed (II)
- I greatly dislike a process that asks for input after decisions have been made. Not at all productive and a poor reflection on City Commissioners
- This sticky note approach avoids the questions we citizens want to ask – it avoids conflict but does not get to the heart of the matter
- I'm surprised by the negativity I've seen hear (and heard)
- This process isn't transparent – not answering question to the audience at this time is inefficient. Being put on the spot and expecting honest and organic answers is what I was expecting, Time lapse in Qs & As so the City can come up with fluffy responses is ridiculous
- What does civic center have to do with Parks & Rec?
- Context; problem statement
- How was this meeting publicized? Did not know anything until a letter in the paper

Like/Don't Like

<p>Your favorite thing about serving on a City advisory board is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being part of creating a benefit for residents and visitors (public art)	<p>Your LEAST favorite thing about serving on a City advisory board is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't like having advisory boards that are not listened to (II)• The snail's pace of getting things done
<p>Comments/Qs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This process is an attempt to shield the City Manager's office from its total lack of transparency and paths of manipulation to deflect from her incompetency• Why push this through the end of the year? Wait for the new commission	