



HCC Full Board Meeting

Minutes

May 30th, 7-9PM

in person room 326 or via Zoom

0:10 Call to Order

In Attendance – Lori FitzGerald, John Andrew, Diana Hammer, Nancy Perry, Joe Lehman, Ben Kuiper, Sonda Gaub, Lowell Chandler, Paige R. Myers, Sean Morrison, Emily Mowers, Chase Eaton, Robert Schlack, Sydney Ausen, Janet Zimmerman, Rick Boleware, Anna Kratz, Dylan Klapmeier, Bob Habeck, Denise R. Barber, Susan Steffens.

Excused: Patricia Bik, Ryan Schwochert, Brenda Valerio

Guests: Dr. Thomas Gregory, Ed C., Eliza McLaughlin

Quorum established – Yes

2:40 Approval of April Full Board Minutes – Lori FitzGerald motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Sonda Gaub. Minutes approved – 2:57

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - none

City Commission Update - none

Review, discuss and vote on HCC Budget Recommendation- the Recommendation will be discussed and approved section by section, and then a final vote on the entire document will be taken at the end of the meeting.

4:39 General Fund

Chair Ben Kuiper says the Budget Committee removed a list – it was just former notes. Public Works Departments 521 and 531 were combined. We have COLA listed at 4% increase, but you can adjust as you see fit. It seems the city is behind with its COLA adjustments, especially when compared to the State and the County.

Under COLA there is funding for at FTE Housing Navigator position. This position used to be shared with the county., but now is overseen by a non-profit organization. The Commission was concerned that without funding the entire position would disappear.

There is also a recommendation by the Commission to use cash reserves to help address a parking solution downtown and aid businesses. Cruse Ave improvements are needed. Funding could be used here for angled parking.

There is \$1M in funding for capital improvement projects.

There is \$150,000 set aside for funding the Solar Energy and Sidewalk Improvement projects.

\$4200 was added for the Lewis & Clark Humane Society.

11:50 Ben Kuiper calls for any amendments or questions.

11:51 Dylan Klapmeier asks what a Housing Navigator does? Diana Hammer answers that they help the homeless find housing.

12:42 Dylan Klapmeier asks if the grants to non-profits are through a competitive process?

13:50- 15:15 Discussion ensues about what HCC supports for the non-profits. May strike naming specific non-profits.

14:38 Motion to strike the mention of specific non-profits, and just give a monetary amount by Dylan Klapmeier and seconded by Rick Boleware.

15:15 The HCC recommends that the city contribute \$52,750 to community non-profits and support community service programs thru competitive grants.

Motion 21:10 Final – The HCC recommends that the city contribute \$52,750 to community nonprofits and community service programs through a competitive grant process.

21:02 Chair Ben Kuiper calls for a verbal vote – 20 in favor, one (1) opposed.

Motion by Sonda Gaub to increase the solar energy program from \$80,000 to \$83,200 and increase the Sidewalk improvement program to \$156,000. This reflects a 4% increase in these amounts from last year. Myers seconds.

27:40 Chair Ben Kuiper calls for a vote – all were in favor, none opposed.

28:22 Dylan Klapmeier thinks the 4% COLA increase sounds good, but he wonders about the Housing Navigator FTE position. If using a one-time funding for this position, that is not good budgeting practice. Where will the money come from in the future>

Building Division

31:45 Dylan Klapmeier (author) speaks. He says the HCC should support that the Commission should explore ways to further the development of new housing growth and reduce the costs/fees associated with it.

Fire/Police

Dylan Klapmeier (author) There should be more policies on how to fund the new Police positions.

33:19 Chair Ben Kuiper calls for discussion/amendments/changes to the Building Division section. There were none.

34:35 Chair Ben Kuiper calls for discussion/amendments/changes to the Fire/Police section. Dylan Klapmeier says the HCC should take a strong stance and new policy on how the Police positions will be staffed should the bond levy fail.

36:42 Community Development -

John Andrew (author) speaks to this section of the document. He just wants to change some wording: from “*development*” to **Finalization** of Neighborhood Plans and add **Implementation** of the Land Use Planning Act.

39:29 Chair Kuiper allows the wording updates as they are not substantive changes.

39:57 Helena Area Community Foundation (HACF) –

Diana Hammer is the author. She says community demand is high and suggests the city increase its donation to \$25,000.

41:83 Dylan Klapmeier suggests the HACF be folded back into the competitive grants mentioned earlier in this document. He asks if HACF has competitive grants process? Diana answers the HACF is its own entity and grants are small, the largest one is \$4000. Last year the city donated \$19,000.

43:29 Lori FitzGerald suggests moving this item to the General Fund area. And increase that to \$52,750.

44:36 Rick Boleware wants to keep HACF in the process, because they do a good job of vetting the non-profit organizations.

45:00 Bob Habeck suggests a number of \$58,750 to accommodate the increase.

45:25 Dylan Klapmeier says to contribute \$58,750, \$4200 for the Human Society and \$25,000 for HACF.

46:52 Motion made by Dylan Klapmeier: The city contribute \$64,750 in the community service support programs through competitive grants, including \$25,000 to HACF with background information.

54:12 Paige Myers thinks the HACF information deserves its own bulleted information area.

55:20 Dylan Klapmeier withdraws his motion.

55:21 Paige Myers motions to move the HACF portion to the General Fund, separate from the \$64,750, and have its own paragraph.

56:00 Dylan Klapmeir seconds this motion.

56:19 Chair Ben Kuiper reads new motion: The city contribute \$39,750 to nonprofit community service programs through a competitive grant process, then, in a separate section under General Fund: the HACF should receive \$25,000. The HACF section will include background information.

57:36 Chair Kuiper opens the floor for discussion. None was had.

57:37 Chair Kuiper calls for a vote: all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Transportation

Author Lowell Chandler speaks – most of what is written is the same as what HCC has expressed previously.

58:43 John Andrew – restates the importance of the MPO and having representation on that board. He also mentions the round-a-bout on Neil and Last Chance Gulch in the future. He feels the 2014 Long Range Transportation Plan should continue to be updated.

1:01:03 Chair Kuiper calls for comments.

1:01:24 Paige Myers asks if requesting a seat on the new MPO will put a bad taste in the Commission's mouth? Maybe it should not be the first bulleted point. Place it in the middle of the list.

1:03:11 Bob Habeck thinks the request would be better in the HCC supports section.

1:03:31 Sonda Gaub motion to move the request under the HCC supports section.

Paige Myers seconds the motion.

1:05:22 Chair Kuiper explains the motion: move the 1st Bullet under Recommendations to the last bulleted item under HCC Supports.

1:05:22 Chair Kuiper calls for a vote. All were in favor. Motion passes.

1:06:44 – Lowell Chandler states the highlighted areas in the Transportation section are more commentary and support for the actual language. They can be removed.

1:07:46 Sean Morrison moves to remove the highlighted portion. Anna Kratz seconds the motion.

1:08:02 Vote to remove highlighted portions. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Public Works Department

Citizen Conservation Board – Diana Hammer was the author. The HCC recommends that they support these issues listed.

1:10:35 Chair Kuiper opens the floor for questions.

1:10:36 Dylan Klapmeier asks if these are direct recommendations from the CCB? Diana Hammer answers they are verbatim.

Public Works Water and Wastewater Funds – Diana Hammer mentions the city paid for an audit that would save the city and taxpayers money. Ways to conserve water were researched. Finding these savings and allocating them towards the Water Conservation Specialist would be productive. HCC recommends 50% waste reduction by 2040.

1:16:05 Chair Kuiper asks for comments, suggestions.

1:16:14 Paige Myers suggests savings measures detailed should be under background instead of being included in the recommendation section.

1:17:51 Chair Ben Kuiper says this is not a substantive change, so can re-work this later.

Public Works Fund #541 Solid Waste-Residential

1:18:21 Denise Roth Barber says to reduce waste from 3000 lbs to 1500 lbs.

1:19:29 Denise R Barber makes a motion to move to 1500 lbs in the bullet point.

1:20:28 Sean Morrison questions what offsets increase solid waste rates. If there is a 50% reduction, does it actually offset or generate enough revenue to make up what the city would lose?

1:21:35 Denise Roth Barber mentions she is not sure of increase in solid waste residential use.

1:22:35 Bob Habeck thinks the 1500 lbs number is not substantiated by any metrics, maybe it should be left out.

1:23:09 Lori FitzGerald and Diana Hammer are not comfortable with the 1500 lb arbitrary number.

Denise Roth Barber - Maybe this bullet should just be removed.

1:26:58 Denise Roth Barber – remove motion to have 3000 lbs reduced to 1500 lbs.

1:27:31 Bob Habeck wants to pull that bullet and move 3rd bullet to a HCC supports section. Seconded by Sonda Gaub.

1:29:13 Denise R. Barber thinks we should remove entire bullet.

1:30:12 Sean Morrison thinks we should keep original document as is. Diana Hammer agrees.

1:30:55 Bob Habeck removes his motion.

1:31:29 Dylan Klapmeier asks what a Water Conservation Specialist does? Diana Hammer answers they provide incentives for residents to use less water, they provide cost savings ideas, low flow fixtures ideas etc. The cost savings are used to fund the Water Conservation Specialist position.

1:34:52 Paige Myers wants to add language at the end of the document saying: Thanks to the Helena City Commission for their time and taking our recommendations and suggestions into consideration for fiscal year 2025. Anna Kratz seconds the motion.

1:36:08 Chair Ben Kuiper calls for vote to add this language to the document. All are in favor, none opposed.

1:37:07 Sidney Ausen thinks we should use the same language in describing the Solar Loan Program. – use the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Loan program. Chair Ben Kuiper says they will reword doc after checking into it.

1:38:15 Motion by Sean Morrison and seconded by Paige Myers to approve the entire document.

1:39:06 Chair Ben Kuiper opens the floor for further discussion both by the public and HCC members, seeing none he calls for a rollcall vote.

1:39:48 Roll call vote. All are in favor, none opposed.

1:41:39 Motion passes. Budget Recommendation Document is approved.

New Business:

Director Brink asks that HCC members attend the Land Use Planning meeting on June 5th. Vice-Chair Lowell Chandler is moving to Missoula, so this position will become vacant. If you are interested in the position, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Ben Kuiper or Peggy Benkelman.

Motion to adjourn by Sean Morrison, seconded by Paige Myers.

1:44:52 Meeting is adjourned