

City of Helena
Citizens Conservation Board
December 14, 2023 – 4:30-6:00 PM

Zoom Online Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/
3bx_lgSOo6PT8XYyMXTIQMoPBKni3Htl9APpaXR5GZZhAOfz9CWvzMCmvSXQWG
DN.T6nHI4if6C16G2bN](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/3bx_lgSOo6PT8XYyMXTIQMoPBKni3Htl9APpaXR5GZZhAOfz9CWvzMCmvSXQWGDN.T6nHI4if6C16G2bN)

Building, Room 426

Call to Order and Roll Call

(11:48) The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

Diana Hammer	Miranda Griffis
Mark Juedeman	Leea Anderson
Jason Selong	Jacki Pierson
Devon Malizia	
Ann (public)	

The following members were absent:
Nora Paige McFadden, Bob Jones

Minutes

(12:54) Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

Minutes were passed unanimously (Dick moved, Jason 2nd)
No changes were recommended to the notes taken at Dec 4 special meeting

Updates from City Staff

(13:28) Leea reported that the charging stations at the parking garage and golf course are turned on and can be used, with pay structure to be implemented later.

(15:15) Miranda reported that the city submitted 3 projects for PCAP funding:
1)Updates to waste water treatment plant (lighting upgrades to LED and replacing boilers).
2)The Commission approved an additional \$60,000 for the Solar Loan Program
3)Improvements at the landfill and transfer station
Leea advised that Parks is working on a proposal as well

The SPA consultant is meeting with the City biweekly, and report will be available March 1.

On Dec 4, the Commission approved the largest sustainability measure ever, namely \$175,000 for a new turbo blower at the waste water treatment plant, an item that should save \$38,000 of electricity per year. If powered entirely by solar, it could save \$1 million.

No update or approval of CCB mission statement.

Diana confirmed that the CCB will not be able to meet with the Commission before the PCAP deadline of Jan 5. CCB presentation to the Commission is Jan 17 and the report or PPT is due Jan 10.

Officers Report

(23:20) Diana shared a letter she received from the Mayor, which stated she could no longer serve on the CCB, as she was an elected member of the HCC. Lori received the same letter, effective January 1, while Diana's is effective immediately. Leea stated they were unaware of this decision. The group voiced frustration with the decision, as many elected folks serve on volunteer boards, and this leaves the CCB with no chair and no secretary, and potentially no quorum in the future. It was agreed that the timeline is too tight to elect replacements before the January report.

Regular Meeting Items

(36:30-01:13)

Diana went around the room to have each member voice their top eight priorities for the annual report to the Commission. It was agreed that there are a LOT of items under each major area and they are all important, but they need to be prioritized (like hands on ideas versus easier wins). Members agreed that we should choose items that will help the city achieve their clean energy goals, while also reducing emissions (focusing on the conservation piece of the CCB)

Much discussion ensued about the need to address duties of a full time sustainability coordinator, which Leea and Miranda feel Miranda already does.

Energy upgrades to buildings, transportation, green electricity and nature based solutions were all areas of priority.

(01:16)

Devon and Jason suggested using things the city is already doing and that the Commission supports, as a spring board to pare down the report. Leea confirmed that, per the resolution, the report should include a) the state of the city's current sustainability efforts b) 3-5 sustainability measures as priorities in addition.

(01:20:40)

Leea stated that currently the Commission is supportive of composting and food waste, green electricity, an energy conservation, and there is data to track these.

She referred the group to her and Miranda's June presentation regarding current sustainability efforts and some future ones, as well as the annual sustainability report for 2022.

(01:32:50)

Mark made a motion for a small group to get together and draft an initial report. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark, Diana, Lori and Dick offered to help draft, and then the others can review and comment, in suggestion mode on Google docs.

Member Communications/Proposals for Next Agenda

(01:35:00) Next regular meeting is January 11, 2024

A special meeting will be called before January 10, to vote on the report. It was agreed a Power Point presentation would be better for the presentation to the Commission, versus a written report

Public Communications

(01:37:00) None

Announcements

(01:38:00) None

Adjournment

(01:40:09)

There being no further business before the Board,
the meeting adjourned at 06:10 pm.