



**CITY OF HELENA
Planning Commission
April 11, 2024
Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Newhouse, Lucy Richards, Anne Schwend

Staff Present: Chris Brink, April Sparks, Ellie Ray

Call to Order and Roll Call

(0:04:26) Staff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll was called, and introductions were made. It was moved and seconded to change the order of items, moving election of officers to the end of the regular items.

Regular Items

B. Presentation on Montana Land Use Planning Act

(0:05:27) Staff gave a presentation on the Montana Land Use Planning Act and how the city has started to implement it. Director Brink answered questions from Commissioners throughout the presentation relating to public engagement, why the current number of members was selected, the selection of the kick-off dates. He also noted what the role of the Planning Commission will be during the process of developing the city's Land Use Plan and after implementation. Director Brink also mentioned that there would likely be additional meetings of this Commission outside of the regularly scheduled meetings. Staff spoke about logistics of the next meetings.

(0:45:17) Ann Schwend stated that she had changed jobs between her appointment to the Board and now. Her current position is with the Montana Department of Commerce [in a program that supports MLUPA implementation around the state] but does not foresee any conflict of interest. Director Brink concurred that there should not be a conflict of interest. There was some additional discussion of how to handle potential conflicts, and then some discussion about what the commissioners envision for the role of the Planning Commission.

A. Election of Officers

(0:52:04) There was some brief discussion over nominations, roles individuals wished to undertake, and each commissioner gave a brief synopsis of their backgrounds and experiences. Lucy Richards was nominated and elected Chair. Mike Newhouse was nominated and elected Vice-Chair.



Public Comment

(1:01:22) There was no public comment.

Meetings of Interest / Announcements

(1:02:05) It was noted the next scheduled meeting was Thursday, May 2, 2024, and that city staff would try to arrange for the contractor to be at the next meeting, but if that was not possible approval of by-laws would be the only thing on the agenda.

Adjournment

(1:05:08) The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT