

**Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT**

**September 15, 2021**

**9:15 AM**

**ZOOM Webinar**

**Members present:** Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Stacie Anderson, Julie Merritt

**Others present:** Sienna Solberg, SPARKS! Arts  
Jim Nugent, City Attorney

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

**1.2.1 Minutes from the August 18, 2021 Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**1.2.2 Minutes from the August 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seeing none.

**3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**3.1 SPARK! Arts: Arts Education Ecosystem**

Bryan von Lossberg asked Mirtha Becerra for an introduction on the item.

Mirtha Becerra said she is part of the board of SPARK! Arts and is excited to have Sienna Solberg present today.

Sienna Solberg presented a PowerPoint about the SPARK! Arts program. It is a Kennedy Center program and Missoula was one of 14 cities in the nation chosen for the program, whose goal is ensuring arts for any given child.

Heather Harp asked if the teacher positions are permanent, part-time and/or temporary?

Sienna Solberg said they were able to add one permanent position, so now there are four and they hope that they are able to make the current two year temporary positions eventually permanent. She continued with her presentation.

Bryan von Lossberg thanked Sienna and opened the floor for comments and questions.

Heather Harp shared her experience with art as a young student. She spoke to the skill sets that the youth learn are critical in moving through life.

Amber Sherrill loves the integration program and thinks it is crucial to learning and understanding. She asked for more information about the grants they receive and how they are applied with an equity lens.

Sienna Solberg provided more information and said they are still developing how to implement.

Gwen Jones mentioned there used to be an imbalance of the arts, heavily weighted to music, so she is excited to hear about this expansion of visual arts. She would also love to create a culture of storytelling in the community.

Sienna Solberg mentioned that there is a staff member whose focus is storytelling.

Mirtha Becerra thinks this program is a great example of something that collectively impacts the community.

Heidi West asked how feeder schools are integrated into high school regarding arts programs.

Sienna Solberg provided her perspective.

Bryan von Lossberg gave thanks.

Information only

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Bryan von Lossberg adjourned the meeting at 9:59 AM.