

Missoula City Council Climate, Conservation and Parks Committee Minutes

**May 4, 2022
8:00 AM
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: Stacie Anderson, Mike Nugent

Others present: Staff Present: Corena Maurer, Donna Gaukler, Leigh Ratterman, Shirley Kinsey, Jim Nugent
Others Present: Marta Meengs, Sarah McClaine, Caitlin Piserchia, Carla Abrams, Craig Menteer, Dave Harmon, Evora Glenn, Michael Sweet, Bryan von Lossberg

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes from March 30, 2022 and April 13, 2022

The minutes were approved as posted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marta Meengs - the 100% percent clean electricity goal is a priority and feels Mr. von Lossberg is a great choice to place in a position to achieve that goal.

Sarah McClain - supports the appointment of Mr. von Lossberg and feels he is the best person to choose to achieve this goal.

William Geer - thanked the City Council for hiring a climate specialist and strongly supports the appointment of Brian von Lossberg.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Referral – 100 Percent Clean Electricity Consultant Contract

Leigh Ratterman gave some background on her request. She discussed more details of the contract.

Jordan Hess joined the meeting.

Amber Sherrill feels this is an important project.

Jordan Hess asked for more clarification on this request.

Ms. Ratterman gave more details on the creation of this position and how they solicited for it.

Mr. Hess and Gwen Jones both spoke in support of the motion.

Sandra Vasecka asked if the \$40,000 was additional funding.

Mirtha Becerra spoke in support of the motion.

Carla Abrams fully supports the hiring of Bryan von Lossberg.

Caitlin Piserchia spoke in support of the motion.

Craig Mentee advocates for the work the city is doing to combat climate change.

Item will go on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Jordan Hess

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the 100 percent Clean Electricity Consultant Contract with Bryan von Lossberg in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Mike Nugent

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Board

Ms. Sherrill gave some background on the applicants.

Donna Gaukler introduced herself and presented the request. Ms. Gaukler supports the Mayors choices.

Ms. Jones states this is the most diverse group she has seen nominated.

This item will go on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Confirm the Mayor's appointment of Sam Duncan, Kelly Sellers and Charles Besancon to the Parks & Recreation Board. Sam Duncan will be filling a vacated term beginning immediately and expiring on April 30, 2023. Kelly Sellers and Charles Besancon's terms begin on May 1, 2022 and expire on April 30, 2025.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Mike Nugent

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.3 Art Wall Agreement with Northwestern Energy

Ms. Gaukler discussed how the substation is being updated and there will be solid walls added. The Downtown Master plan identified these walls as a public art opportunity.

The request is for 20 years.

Ms. Sherrill supports the motion and loves public art.

Ms. Vasecka asked for more clarification on artist selection.

Ms. Gaukler assures that the artist selection process will be very public.

Ms. Becerra thinks this is a great opportunity to expand our public art and adhere to the Downtown Master Plan. Ms. Becerra states she will keep the council informed on the process.

Daniel Carlino supports the motion but is concerned that Northwestern Energy will have a say in what will be on the art wall.

Ms. Gaukler states that Northwestern Energy did not want to be portrayed negatively.

Heidi West states that the process will be as inclusive as possible and spoke in support of the motion.

Jennifer Savage agrees this is a great opportunity to get art downtown. She asks if the artist will be compensated.

Ms. Gaukler states this is something that will be considered.

Ms. Vasecka asked where the payment for the artist would be coming from.

Ms. Becerra states there is a budget in the Public Art Committee for artist compensation.

John Contos would like to know why Northwestern Energy wants an annual fee for the mural.

Ms. Gaukler discussed several reasons for that specific request.

Item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Mirtha Becerra

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a License Agreement with NorthWestern Energy allowing for Public Art on the Pattee Street Substation walls

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Mike Nugent

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.4 Milwaukee, Bitterroot and Grant Creek Trail crack seal and seal coat

Ms. Gaukler presented the request.

Ms. Gaukler discussed where the funding was coming from for the request.

Ms. Sherrill appreciates how the Park Department finds grants for funding.

Ms. Becerra supports the motion and feels maintaining the trails is very important.

Item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Mirtha Becerra

Approve a contract with Pro Sweep Plus in the amount of \$68,158.53 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Mike Nugent

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.5 Conceptual Master Plan for Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity

Ms. Sherrill gave some clarification on what the request includes which is the approval of the conceptual drawings.

Ms. Gaukler stated the request is to set a public hearing.

Ms. Gaukler discussed the grass roots efforts of so many projects with Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Gaukler presented a presentation of the Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity (CCRC) which included the history of the project.

Ms. Gaukler discussed the requests and desires of the community in relation to what they would like to see in the project.

Ms. Gaukler discussed the importance of having a place for the community that has clean air during smoke or bad air quality days.

Ms. Gaukler discussed the public process on this project.

Ms. Gaukler presented possible design options and estimated project development costs, annual expenses and cost recovery.

Michael Sweet with Friends of the CCRC discussed looking for a place for community dances, the importance of good mental health and promoting the infrastructure of community.

Ms. Sherrill likes the design of the building.

Ms. West asked about partnering with the schools.

Ms. Vasecka asked how the Parks Department is able to be unlicensed for child care.

Ms. Gaukler explained the differences between daycare and summer camps which allows the Parks Department to operate summer camps without a license.

Item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Heidi West

Set a public hearing for May 23, 2022 for the adoption of the conceptual master plan for the Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity.

AYES: (10): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Stacie Anderson, and Mike Nugent

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am.

Submitted by: Corena Maurer

City of Missoula Parks & Recreation