

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT

**May 18, 2022
11:30 AM
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Daniel Carlino, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

Members absent: Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Jennifer Savage, Heidi West

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Missoula Aging Services Update

Informational presentation only.

Lisa Sheppard spoke on the services and programs provided by Missoula Aging Services (see attached presentation and video), mentioning that Montana's population is aging at a faster rate than the majority of states.

Gwen Jones asked about the Meals on Wheels Champions Day (was paused during the pandemic). In the past, MAS did a champions day in the spring for a fundraiser and informational and local leaders accompany the drivers on their route which was very informative. Lisa Sheppard noted that councilors are welcome to do a ride-along at any time.

Stacie Anderson spoke on the benefits of the ride-alongs. Stacie Anderson also asked about programing and workforce shortages; and asked Lisa to speak on financial educational components that are available. Lisa responded that many positions are open and that services have decreased due to inability to serve without the personnel to support the programs. Direct care work was also hard to fill pre-Covid due to the low wage and working conditions. However, people should still reach out if they need services. Lisa also spoke on scams targeting seniors. MAS provides educational programs and resources for those affected by scammers. They also have a money management program.

Amber Sherrill asked about barriers to entry to providing services and how MAS communicates with those who may need services. Lisa responded that Montana's culture of independence can make this hard, but that building trust with older adults is key and MAS has outreach services for this. They have a "person-centered approach" that focuses on the needs of each individual.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:04pm.