

**City of Missoula, Montana  
New Business Item**

**Item:** **Public Forum Missoula County Fairgrounds Signs**

**Council Meeting**

**Date:** June 13, 2022

**Sponsor(s):** **Zoe Walters, Assistant Planner, CPDI**

**Prepared by:** **Zoe Walters, Assistant Planner, CPDI**

**Ward(s) Affected:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6            |
|                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A               |

**Action Required:**

Conduct a public forum for public comment on the proposed use. Per state and city law, the Council has no decision-making role. The role is limited to conducting the public form only.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

**New Business June 13, 2022:**

Set a public hearing on June 27, 2021, to provide a public forum and take public comment on an application from Missoula County to replace existing signs with heritage signs at the Missoula County Fairgrounds and refer this item to the Land Use and Planning committee for a preview on June 22, 2022. Under state and city law, City Council must conduct this public forum, but it has no power to deny, approve or condition the proposed use.

**Timeline:**

Land Use and Planning Committee:	June 22, 2022 (preview, info. only)
City Council:	June 27, 2022 (no action required)

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Community Planning, Development, and Innovation has received notice from A&E Designs on behalf of Missoula County Fairgrounds of their intent to replace an existing sign with heritage signs at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. The subject property is located at 1075 South Avenue W. The proposed project includes the removal of the existing overhead entrance sign at Fair Way Drive and South Ave and the addition of two internally illuminated ground signs arching over the Fair Way Drive vehicle and pedestrian fairgrounds entrances. The new design will reflect the heritage of the Missoula County Fairgrounds using distinctive design and lighting, and a historically accurate arch and text font.

The large arched sign to be placed overhead of the vehicle entrance will be 46 square feet in area and 25 feet in height. The small arched sign to be placed overhead the pedestrian entrance is 11 square feet in area and 17 feet in height.

The proposed signs meet the definition of a heritage sign (Title 20, Chapter 20.100.010). A heritage sign is one that employs distinctive graphics, symbols and lighting that is a unique design to the community and are historically-accurate, reflecting the heritage of Missoula. Heritage signs maybe in the form of nonconforming signs or new signs that do not fit within the typical definition and measurements of wall, ground, or other sign.

Both signs were reviewed by the Historic Preservation Officer on March 18, 2022 and were found to comply with the Title 20 Heritage sign definition 20.100.010.

Title 20, Section 20.75.100.B.4 requires that heritage signs be approved by Design Review Board. However, Title 20, Section 20.85.095 states City Council may hold a public hearing, known as a public forum, when an agency proposes to develop or use public land contrary to the zoning regulations. The Missoula County Fairgrounds is a public agency and may use public forum to establish heritage signs without Design Review Board approval.

**Financial Implications:**

None

**Links to external websites:**

None