

Missoula City Council Climate, Conservation and Parks Committee Minutes

**July 13, 2022
11:30 AM
ZOOM Webinar**

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

Members absent: Stacie Anderson

Others present: Staff Present: David Selvage, Jim Nugent, Dale Bickell, Corena Maurer, Ryan Sudbury
Others Present: Tony Moretti, Caroline McCauley

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes from June 29, 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Easement Request Kiwanis Park

David Selvage reviewed the easement request.

Heidi West joined the meeting.

Amber Sherrill asked for more information on a floating easement.

Gwen Jones asked if this was a request from the fire department.

Tony Moretti, contractor for the project, clarified the easement is to ensure a second way off the site.

Ms. Jones asked if this easement would be gated and only used in case of fire.

Mirtha Becerra joined the meeting.

Mike Nugent asked about unit capacity and if there are any similar easements are in the City.

Mike Nugent asked for clarifying information on an existing building.

Daniel Carlino moved to table this item. The motion did not pass.

Mr. Carlino states that there are 12 renters that will be displaced with the granting of this easement.

Heidi West made the recommended motion and would like to know the development potential of the site without the easement.

Ms. Becerra asked about the zoning for the property and how the public is able to provide input on this item. Ms. Becerra stated we cannot collect public benefit funds for this easement. Ms. Becerra would like to have a better policy on how each department handles easements.

Caroline McCauley, who is the property owner, stated there are 5 units that would be affected by this easement. They have always intended to develop the property and have been very clear with their tenants on this fact. She spoke about the current condition of the units.

Hannah Kosel is a current renter and does not support this easement as it will displace current renters. She would like the committee to table the issue to give renters time to relocate.

Mike Nugent stated they have no ability as a council to regulate what a landlord does or does not do and expressed the need to focus on what the committee can control.

Mr. Carlino states we need to be creative in finding solutions in following our housing policy to preserve affordable homes.

Kristen Jordan states we are able to regulate the process, we are losing our affordable housing and we have the ability to table this item to get the renters time to find another place to live.

Ms. West asked where the money for the easement will be allocated. She also discussed the language in the Housing Policy about the quality of housing.

Ms. Sherrill stated that the committee is not able to stop people from being displaced because we do not own the property.

Mr. Carlino believes granting the easement will provide more financial incentive to displace the renters.

This item will be placed under committee reports.

Moved by: Daniel Carlino

Table this item.

AYES: (2): Daniel Carlino, and Kristen Jordan

NAYS: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Failed (2 to 9)

Approve an easement to provide for emergency egress and safe gathering area in Kiwanis Park for benefit of the Grantee's (MC Real Estate Development, LLC) parcels with conditions as outlined and authorize the Mayor to sign.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

NAYS: (2): Daniel Carlino, and Kristen Jordan

ABSENT: (1): Stacie Anderson

Vote results: Approved (9 to 2)

4. ADJOURNMENT

12:16 pm