

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes - DRAFT

March 29, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: John P. Contos, Kristen Jordan

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the March 8, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Travis Mattier - Missoula Resident. Created a personal TIF, ability to contribute to it via GoFundMe.

Thanked law enforcement.

Thanked Aging Services for their work.

Heidi West arrived at the meeting.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Missoula Aging Services Area Plan on Aging

Presentation from Lisa Shepherd, Director. Please see recording for presentation.

Stacie Anderson arrived at the meeting.

Gwen Jones - Asked questions about nursing homes.

Lisa - Discussed issues around nursing homes and glad legislature is discussing this, but said only a small group is being focused on at this time. The system is broken and needs to be revised.

Gwen - There is definitely a lot more to the entire picture besides just nursing homes. The situation is dire.

Lisa - Yes. Hospitals can't release people when there is no nursing home and no other care available for them.

Stacie Anderson - Posed a question regarding Medicare/social security provisions.

Lisa - Discussed challenges with limits to qualifying for Medicare and paying for in-home care privately. It is a statewide challenge. Many other there just do not have options. We are a minimally funded state because of our population.

Amber Sherrill - Love what you do and thank you for your innovation. Asked about caregiver shortages.

Lisa - Yes, there is a national shortage. Unfortunately, I don't have the answers.

Amber - Could you speak to your volunteer program?

Lisa - We are working on re-inventing our volunteer services. How can we help people do things that in the past have been "paid" services. Provide transportation (outside the public transportation system), home repairs, modifications. We take volunteers of all ages.

Heidi West - For people living alone, has there been any survey on what type of housing these individuals would like to live in?

Lisa - It hasn't been. Many want to stay in the home they are in, as they are used to it and their memories are there. Right now, there is not much available for them to afford. Generally speaking, when people are thinking about where they might live as they age, people are thinking about building homes in areas that are easily accessible and homes that are accessible. It is challenging when housing stock does not have a ground floor entrance.

Heidi - Yes, units being built right now (Community Land Trust) are not set up for aging in place. We need to bring units to the market that are both suitable financially and physically.

Lisa - We want to have more of these conversations with you all. We want to facilitate older adults find their voice and be at the tables where these discussions are happening.

Gwen Jones - No one online for public comment.

Mike Nugent - I want to echo Ms. West's comments. Are there examples anywhere the public sector and the private sector are doing this well?

Sandra Vasecka arrived at the meeting a bit earlier.

Lisa - The short answer is yes. I will send you some information to you all regarding this. I can also send you links to the reports we discussed today.

Gwen - Thank you for a great presentation with so much great, relevant information.

Information only

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:03