

Missoula City Council Climate, Conservation and Parks Committee Minutes

January 7, 2026

1:30 PM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

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

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Sean McCoy, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Justin Ponton, Jennifer Savage

Members absent: Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell

Others present: Staff Present: Nathan McLeod, Corena Maurer, Ryan Applegate, Anneliese Brown, Cheyenne Campbell, Tim DeFors, Meg Whicher, Claire Trimble

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes from December 10, 2025

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Higgins Waterfront Easement

Nathan McLeod presented the proposed amendment.

Nathan discussed the location and requirements for the trail section.

Gwen Jones made the recommended motion.

This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the amended and restated conservation easement with Higgins Waterfront, LLC, for the property located at 500 S. Higgins, east of the Beartracks Bridge, immediately south of and adjacent to the Clark Fork River.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Sean McCoy, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Justin Ponton, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Mirtha Becerra, and Bob Campbell

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 Shared-Investment Partnership with Missoula County Public Schools

Ryan Applegate presented the request for a shared investment partnership with Missoula County Public Schools.

Ryan discussed goals, benefits and future plans.

Meg Whicher discussed past programs and current programs.

Amber Sherrill spoke in support of the motion.

Mike Nugent voiced concerns over costs.

Ryan states the intention of the resolution is to do things in a measured way and look at if it will impact metrics.

Betsy Craske asked about ideas, goals and visions to grow the program.

Ryan says the intent is to continue collaboration and focus on tracking.

Meg discussed grants and funding.

Kristen Jordan spoke in support of the motion.

Kristen made the recommended motion.

Sean McCoy spoke in support of the motion.

Jennifer Savage spoke in support of the motion.

This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Moved by: Kristen Jordan

Approve a Resolution of the City Council of Missoula supporting a Shared-Investment Partnership with Missoula County Public Schools to improve student achievement and community health outcomes.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Sean McCoy, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Justin Ponton, and Jennifer Savage

ABSENT: (2): Mirtha Becerra, and Bob Campbell

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by: Corena Maurer

City of Missoula, Parks & Recreation