

Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes

June 3, 2020

11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting: Live Stream and On Demand: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/webcasts>

Watch Live on Cable TV Channel 190

YouTube Live Stream and On Demand:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5fnfMPFGSk8Gwq6F5UoqGg>

Live call in phone numbers: 1 (253) 215-8782 1 (888) 475-4499 (landlines only) Meeting ID: 960 049 3694

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Julie Merritt

Others present: Emy Sherer, Alan Newell,

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from the March 11, 2020 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Resolution of Support – Missoula Downtown Heritage Interpretive Plan

von Lossberg - Today we have a resolution of support for the Downtown Heritage Interpretive Plan. I am going to turn the introduction over to Emy Scherrer.

Emy Scherrer - Presented the final Missoula Downtown Heritage Interpretive Plan. The Historic Preservation Commission office and the Missoula Downtown Association partnered for tours of historic Missoula. We then created a wider committee to include all heritage aspects of Missoula and wrote a grant to expand. We worked with consultants for the neighborhood downtown master plan. We met with community members on what they wanted to see downtown and we came up with the plan for councils approval.

Jimmy Grant, Historian with Historical Research Associates - Went over key elements of the plan. The Heritage interpretive plan is a road map for communicating our heritage; it identifies the stories of downtown and recommends how we tell them. We started with conversations with an online questionnaire. The purpose is to work in concert with the downtown master plan. We consider downtown Missoula as a gathering place; historically it was a gathering place for the Salish people. It is a place for exchange, and memories and experiences are associated with downtown. There is existing

interpretation in downtown Missoula we will expand upon. We have found that Missoula has been interpreting its historical heritage for a long time. This plan recommends connectivity through heritage anchors, the establishment of heritage interpretation gateways - this will be tied in to our current Wayfinding system. We have an idea for a downtown heritage trail. Another idea is the heritage tree program. We want to have an inclusive heritage. We are looking at identifying partners to help with this, it comes down to collaboration. We want to have a secure space for the Unseen Missoula program to host exhibits. There are specific actions related to the Downtown Master Plan such as "stay original", a downtown for everyone, pop-up exhibitions, indigenous art, etc. The implementation timeline was reviewed.

von Lossberg - Questions?

Becerra - I want to express my full support for this plan. It is comprehensive and sensitive to our native communities. I see this as a blueprint for the interpretation of our heritage. I think it is an important educational tool.

Jones - I think there is a great interest for this in our community. With the underground tours, there was great local interest. I'm appreciative of this and I hope there is support across Missoula. Thank you to everyone who has worked on this.

Sherrill - I appreciate that the native community is represented in this plan. Do you track who participates in the tours?

Kalina Wickham - We do collect zip codes. There is some tourism. This is focused on locals.

Alan Newell - We put up the match for this grant. I think this is the ideal time to have a positive impact in Missoula.

Matt Lautzenheiser - I appreciate their willingness to reach out to the Historical Museum. Kudos for everyone who worked on this.

Vasecka - I'm excited about this. I do have a concern that there are no financial implications.

von Lossberg - This is like the Downtown Master Plan, we aren't approving funding, we are approving a vision. Then it takes partnerships to find the funds. Those become individual efforts on their own.

Emy Scherrer - So far everything has been covered by grant funds.

von Lossberg - I am supportive. I appreciate the leadership on this. I look at the success of the unseen Missoula tours and there is huge public support for this. I appreciate that the folks on this call used the tours as a way to move towards this plan. This is a road map for future Councils.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Adopt the resolution of support for the Missoula Downtown Heritage Interpretive Plan

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Julie Merritt, and Jesse Ramos

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)