



## **Missoula Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board Minutes**

July 21, 2020, 10:00 AM

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

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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

Voting members present: Cory Simenson (Chair), Britt Arnesen, Ryan Bundy, Jessica Dougherty Goodburn, Jessica Tuberty (Vice Chair), James Walter, Gene Schmitz

Regular member(s) absent: Chris Siller

### **1. Call to Order**

Cory Simenson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve.

### **4. General Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

### **5. Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **6. New Business**

#### **6.1 Dialog with City Staff and Leadership**

Cory Simenson, chair, asked the board to express what they thought the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) was when they signed up. Most members felt the board was what they expected and appreciated the time. However, funding for projects has been an issue. Some members expressed their frustration that the board feels more like an echo board rather than an advocacy board. One member stated their desire to have a work plan for the year to help focus future planning discussions. Some board members would like to meet more frequently in a less formal setting to discuss what is valued, and to be more proactive with planning and activities. Another board member expressed the desire to expand on development concerns and used California Street

safety concerns as an example. Members felt they were not being listened to and would like to see the board be able to make more of a difference.

Ben Weiss, Bicycle and Pedestrian Office, responded to the board's comments. He expressed his appreciation to the board and their frustration. Mr. Weiss pointed out that BPAB is an advisory board, which means it is here to advise staff on projects and transportation needs in the community. Mr. Weiss stated that with the new Public Works (PW) director he hopes to see things move a little quicker and suggested board members could reach out with requests for service about concerns they have outside of board meetings so that staff can respond quicker. City Council member, Jordan Hess, commented that a source of frustration on council is the lack of funding to address the backlog of infrastructure that needs maintenance and repair, as well as the new infrastructure that is needed. Mr. Hess expressed his desire to help make changes to the board's structure if they feel it would make it more productive, fulfilling and functional. Aaron Wilson, Transportation Manager, reiterated the importance of looking at the bigger picture rather than focusing on individual locations. Mr. Weiss reviewed a list of projects that would not have happened without the help of the board. He said that it can be hard to see from meeting to meeting but on the long term side of things, the board has impacted the layout of some projects. Projects mentioned included the 5th and 6th Street project, California Street and the Complete Streets Policy adopted in 2009 and revised in 2016.

Members felt it would be beneficial to have a mission or vision that is board directed and board generated.

Everyone was encouraged to visit:

[https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/bpac\\_best\\_practices%28web%29.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/bpac_best_practices%28web%29.pdf) to review the document and get more information on how the board can be more effective. Some examples included were code enforcement updates, grant project development, bike friendly business programs, a neighborhood greenway program, and hearing from other city staff and departments. Some members felt they lost the opportunity to provide input on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and how that is one of the three major roles held by BPAB. Members also felt that the city should have a system set up for the public to report safety issues and concerns, similar to how pot holes can be reported to.

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Mr. Hess reiterated his appreciation for the board before leaving the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Mr. Weiss stressed that there are some limitations due to staff requirements and explained that this year revisions to the CIP process led to a rushed timeline for board engagement, but that in future years it will be more timely. Mr. Wilson clarified the issue and stated that board members are welcome to provide input on this year's CIP will be through most of August. Future goals for the board were discussed, including having a work plan, more actionable opinion items and better agenda preparation. City staff was asked to prioritize a list of the top ten CIP projects at least a day prior to the next meeting to allow time for the board review.

**7. Announcements**

There was no announcements.

**8. Next Meeting: August 4, 2020 at 3pm Virtually**

Cory Simenson requested board members provide suggested agenda items for the next meeting. He asked that these be sent the Wednesday prior to the next meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

Cory Simenson adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.