

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**140 W. Pine**  
**MISSOULA MONTANA**  
**May 11, 2009, 6:30 p.m.**

**Members present:** Ed Childers, President; Dick Haines; Bob Jaffe;; Renee Mitchell;; Pam Walzer; Jason Wiener; Jon Wilkins; Stacy Rye, Vice President; John Hendrickson; Lyn Hellegaard, Marilyn Marler and Dave Strohmaier

**Members absent:** None

**Others present:** Marty Rehbein, City Clerk; Gary Bakke, Kim Latrielle; John Riley, Dale Mahlum; Tim Winger; Roxi Riley; Bill Evans

**I. Administrative Business**

Minutes of [04/20/09](#) and [05/06/09](#)

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda**

There was no public comment.

**III. Regular Agenda**

A. Referral of support for the Expo-Center ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson)  
(Referred to committee: 05/04/09) (Remove from agenda)

**Motion: The committee recommends the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter expressing the City Council's endorsement and support for a feasibility study for an exposition center in Missoula**

John Riley is co chair of an expo center steering committee including Tim Winger, Kim Latrielle. Bill Bouchee, Stacy Mueller, and Dirk Visser. They are a group of citizens who have been involved in some of the largest facility projects in the community in recent years. They have a good team to determine if this facility is feasible and is a good opportunity for Missoula. They are not part of the Chamber of Commerce or any other group. They are not joined at the hip with the Missoula County Fair or the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds is undergoing some feasibility analysis, and this facility may or may not be part of that planning. There are currently no public funds involved in studying the feasibility for the expo center. Their committee has raised a substantial amount of money from the private sector, and they have applied for Big Sky Trust Fund grants for the study. They have not picked a location yet. The Mayor and County Commissioners have sent a letter of support. They are seeking similar support for the feasibility study from the City Council.

Their steering committee is particularly focused on the positive economic drivers a professionally managed expo center can have in the community.

He showed a video which outlined the vision for the facility and presented information on a expo center from Bend OR. The Bend facility is bigger than what they are envisioning for Missoula. Bend's expo center takes away a lot of the seasonal aspects of their tourism season which is also a problem in Missoula. Bend's facility is profitable and residents enjoy free events at the center during their fair. The facility maintains a reserve fund for added capital improvements. Revenue has been growing steadily since it was opened. The facility provides year round activities generating year round economic impact in the community.

Mr. Hendrickson noted this facility will be one of a kind and will not be in competition with anything else in town. He moved the city council approve and authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the City Council endorsing and supporting the feasibility study.

Mr. Jaffe asked what is the cost of study? Mr. Riley responded the committee hasn't selected a vendor yet. They've applied for \$25,000 in Big Sky Trust Funds, and they have raised more than that on their own. They estimate the study will cost \$50,000-\$60,000. The Bend facility cost close to \$30,000,000 to construct. Mr. Jaffe said he is generally in support of the feasibility study.

Ms. Walzer is in support of the facility and asked to modify the letter of support to eliminate the third paragraph. Mr. Hendrickson accepted this change as part of his motion.

Renee asked if other groups are involved in the project. Mr. Riley said they are looking for their consultant to talk with the group working on the fairgrounds.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**IV. Held in committee**

- A. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
- B. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
- C. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement \(Agenda 04/29/09\)](#)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
- D. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/2007)
- E. Discuss possibilities for enhancing the applicant pool for vacancies on volunteer boards and commissions ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/17/07)
- F. Joint meeting between the Missoula City Council and the Missoula County Public Schools' Board of Trustees ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/17/07)
- G. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
- H. Review CIP funding mechanism, vehicle replacement policy, department vehicle use practices, specifically Police, Fire, and Parking Commission ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 11/10/08)
- I. Outside legal consultation on the legal opinion regarding zoning rewrite ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

**V.**

**VI. Remove from agenda**

- A. Discussion on the final lobby report and 2009 legislative session ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 05/04/09)

**VII. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rehbein  
City Clerk