

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
MARCH 7, 2012, 2:00 PM**

Members present: Marilyn Marler, President; Bob Jaffe, Vice President; Ed Childers, Caitlin Copple, Dick Haines; Adam Hertz; Mike O'Herron; Dave Strohmaier; Alex Taft; Jason Wiener; and Jon Wilkins

Members absent: Cynthia Wolken

Others present: Kim Latrelle, John Brauer, Steve Mauer

I. Administrative Business

Minutes dated March 5, 2012 and March 7, 2012 morning meeting will be approved at a later date

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda--None

III. Regular Agenda

A. Biannual meeting with Missoula Chamber of Commerce. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 02/13/12)

Kim Latrelle introduced the [Governmental Affairs Committee Structure](#) and discussed the [Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan](#). Any issues can be brought forward from any member of the Board of Directors, Chamber Staff, twelve chamber committees or elected official. In the process, the item is put on the Governmental Affairs agenda. A committee then takes a look at it to see if it is a priority and needs action to be taken right away or they can direct staff to look into the issue. In the strategic planning process, the importance to staff is to bring both sides of the issue to the table. An executive summary is written up and is still on the agenda until it is not monitored any further. Jason Wiener and Adam Hertz are the City Council reps to the Chamber Board of Directors.

Ms. Marler asked for introduction of the guests:

- John Brauer is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Kim Latrelle is the President and CEO of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Steve Mauer is the Government Affairs Liaison for the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce.

John Brauer stated the primary concern for them is communication. He has heard of a misconception that local government and businesses can not work together. There are six top priorities for the Government Affairs :

- Utilize past survey data to determine any hurdles for chamber members regarding expansion and retention that has to do with local government.
- Identify and publish the top areas of the public policy for concern the committee would proactively work on and monitor.
- Adopt one or two areas of the Taylor-Wolford report to provide governmental affairs support.
- Meet bi-annually with the City Council and the County Commissioners to keep the lines of communication open.

- Hand craft and follow governmental affairs process, plans and issues.
- Recruit more qualified members using an industrial matrix so they can diversify the board in general.

He also stated with their proposed change, the Office of Planning and Grants is on their agenda:

- Two things that have big concerns with the members regarding the change are the OPG process and the customer service business incentives.
- They are grateful Mr. Mauer has a seat at the table of the working group regarding the change.
- Some other issues that they have been monitoring are:
 - Water Rights
 - Sidewalk funding
 - Ag Land Mitigation
 - Attorney General ruling on Subdivision, for sale or Lease

Mr. Brauer stated he appreciates the opportunity to open the lines of communication.

Steve Mauer asked if there are some things, ideas or thoughts that City Council has on their minds.

Ms. Marler stated she appreciates the Chamber is willing to open the lines of communication at least twice a year. She also encouraged them to attend the regular city council meetings. She also stated soon the City Council will be talking about the sidewalk funding and gas tax which they would like the Chamber to be involved in the discussion too.

Ed Childers asked if the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce belongs to the US Chamber of Commerce. What is the relationship with US Chamber of Commerce? Ms. Latrielle stated they are member of US Chamber of Commerce. They pay \$300.00 per year as membership dues. None of the membership money goes to support political campaigning or political use as there is a separate funds. The US Chamber of Commerce can not take any positions for the local chapter and can not represent the local chamber. The Missoula Chamber does not endorse candidates and does not get into federal elections. The Chamber is only connected in name but they are all separate organizations.

Mr. Childers asked if the Chamber has taken a formal position on what the US Chamber has done with their advertising. Ms. Latrielle stated yes they have.

Mr. Childers asked for the Chamber to get involved in the sidewalks soon. Also, on the ruling for subdivision, lease or rent, many cities, towns, chambers and others will be getting involved to see legislation is fixed.

Mike O'Herron stated himself and Ms. Copple have been doing some research to see if there is interest in having downtown Wi-Fi. What would the Chamber think of Wi-Fi being a utility or a business infrastructure for the city? Ms. Latrielle stated they have not been asked that so they don't have any formal positions.

Mr. O'Herron asked what the communication relationship with the Missoula Economic Partnership is. Ms. Latrielle stated they are member of each other's organizations. The Chamber of Commerce staff has helped them do survey when they first started. .

Mr. Mauer stated Brigitta Freer is a regular attendee to the Business and Community Development meetings. MEP, Chamber, NMCDC, and MDA to understand what each

other's strengths are to help each other and other business relocation folks. Ms. Latrielle stated the MEP, Job Service and the Chamber are working on the BER (Business Expansion Retention) program.

Dick Haines stated there should be a dialogue or conversation about whether the city should put money towards sidewalks or should put money towards reconstructing main roads that do not meet the criteria of today's traffic specifically for Hillview, Garrett etc. He also stated he would like to see City Council on the Chamber of Commerce. The last issue Mr. Haines brought forth was the conflict of the use of space around the town buying open space to for the sake of having open space.

Caitlin Copple stated she is putting in a referral to revive Economic Development Subcommittee. Elaine Hawk who is on the Chambers' Governmental Affairs committee expressed interest in being on the committee. She asked if they might know of a commercial banker who would be interested in being on the committee to let her know. Lastly, how is the chamber working with UM? Mr. Brauer stated Jim Foley is on the board. Mr. Foley has brought forward several ideas but they are not really involved with Montech and Rivertop Renewables projects.

Jon Wilkins stated he would really like their input on working group regarding OPG. He would like to see more marketing with the Chamber with the neighbors to the north.

Alex Taft stated this communication is a good start. He mentioned the quality of life is a issue and the issues may be different from each organizations. He recognizes they are a city governmental body while the chamber is a regional body. Ms. Latrielle stated with the electronic sign questions traditionally the chamber gets involved whether it is walking up and down the corridor involving business or developing a brochure informing businesses of following the ordinances.

Bob Jaffe stated Ms. Latrielle mentioned polling their members on the restructuring OPG. Did you get more granular with that to determine where the issues are? What kind of issues has the chamber heard? Mr. Brauer stated based on the survey the process and Customer Service as the two biggest concerns or priorities. Regarding the process, the timeliness of how long it takes to get through is a concern. He would be happy to share the results of the survey with the council if they would like.

Mr. Jaffe stated regarding the sidewalk issue, he would like to see more participation from the businesses. He enjoyed how Gary Bakke interacted with the council during public comment and hopes it will continue. He also mentioned with the Government Affairs Liaison it would be helpful to have a direction from the Chamber board on some issues. Ms. Latrielle stated Mr. Mauer can participate on his own but the board direction should come from Ms. Latrielle or Mr. Brauer.

Mr. Jaffe stated he attended a meeting at the Airport regarding bringing in more airlines. In the meeting he noticed they were lacking in data on how many people would use the service. Ms. Latrielle stated she is on the Low Cost Carrier Task Force at the airport. The MEP has taken the lead and the Chamber has offered their support. She also stated they have done surveys for the airport and to the business community on how much business travel there is.

Mr. Jaffe asked what does the Missoula Chamber get from being a member of the US Chamber. Ms. Latrielle stated all their professional training comes from US Chamber as she has attended the Chamber Institute to learn about how to run a non-profit. They also keep the local chamber informed about what is happening in Washington on business issues. The last thing they do for the chamber has to do with the accreditation process.

The local chamber has been through the process and has established a 5 year accreditation status.

Adam Hertz stated a lot of the issues coming before council are on the Chamber's radar in a reactive manner so it would be helpful to see the chamber in a proactive effort.

Dave Strohmaier stated he would like to encourage the chamber to come to any councilmembers if they would like the council bring up any issues.

Jon Wilkins stated Public Safety and Health will hopefully be taking up cell phones next month.

There was no public comment.

IV. Held in committee

1. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
2. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement](#) (Agenda) —Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
3. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
4. Invite Dr. Barry Good, Dean of the UM College of Technology to update the committee on current plans and programs of the COT. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mike O'Herron) (Referred to committee: 02/13/12)
5. Discuss OPG reorganization proposal with Department Heads. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12)
6. 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)
7. Invite James Grunke and Brigitte Freer from the Missoula Economic Partnership (MEP) to discuss with the committee on the status of recruitment of a new Director and progress made on their strategic goals. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Caitlin Copple) (Referred to committee: 02/27/12)
8. Presentation of the "Working Together" Study by Dennis Taylor of DMT Consulting. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bruce Bender) (Referred to committee: 03/05/12)

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Rogers
Deputy City Clerk