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NATIONAL LAND USE EXPERT TO SPEAK AT CITY PLANNING INITIATIVE LAUNCH

***Our Missoula* Effort Seeks to Engage Citizens in Planning Growth**

The City of Missoula Development Services planning staff and Mayor John Engen invite the public to the launch of a planning initiative that will engage the community in planning for growth. The public event will be held on Wednesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel at 100 Madison St.

Keynote speaker for the event will be nationally known land use authority Ed McMahon, senior resident fellow of the Urban Land Institute. He will address “Secrets of Successful Communities.”

Development Services Director Mike Haynes will introduce the year-and-a-half-long project, *Our Missoula: Looking inward. Moving forward.* At this event, City planners will begin to collect residents’ ideas and values and invite participation in focus groups to help shape the city’s future growth.

The event is the first step in a crucial process where Missoulians will come together to set a long-term vision for the city. City government has operated with a growth plan since 1961, with updates along the way. Currently, Missoula is working under a growth plan adopted in 2006. Many things have changed since then, and this is a new opportunity to focus on City initiatives while being responsive to emerging issues in a way that reflects community values. The resulting policy for growth will serve as a visionary blueprint for all aspects of future growth and development in Missoula.

Keynote speaker McMahon holds the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC where he is nationally known as an inspiring and thought provoking speaker and leading authority on economic development and land use policies

and trends. As the Senior Fellow for Sustainable Development McMahon leads ULI's worldwide efforts to conduct research and educational activities related to environmentally sensitive development policies and practices. He is also a senior staff adviser for ULI's Building Healthy Places Initiative. More information about Ed McMahon is available at the Urban Land Institute's web page: <http://uli.org/research/senior-resident-fellows/ed-mcmahon/>

Learn more about the project at www.ourmissoula.org.

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