

**Missoula City/County Elected Officials Policy Meeting
Planning and Grants Services Interlocal Agreement
January 27, 2010
10:05 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, 140 W Pine**

Present: Ed Childers, Renee Mitchell, Dick Haines, Marilyn Marler, Bill Carey, Michele Landquist, Bob Jaffe, Pam Walzer, Jason Wiener, Dave Strohmaier, Jon Wilkins, Lyn Hellegaard, Roy Houseman, Ann Cundy, Donna Gaukler, Lisa Moisey, Mike Barton, Roger Millar and Shelley Oly

1. **Introductions and Public Comments** – None
2. **Approval of [October 28, 2009 minutes](#)** – approved as presented.
3. **Director's Report** ([click on this link to view presentation](#))

Overview – Roger Millar provided an update on OPG's budget status.

- The bulk of OPG's discretionary budget is the City and County general fund support for the current planning division.
- The Grant's programs are on track.
- Midyear of FY 2009 the development activity showed a decline related to the recession. Most of the decline was in subdivision applications.
- The powerpoint presentation slides compared December FY2008 with December FY2009.
- While there have been increases in some permit activity (floodplain, etc.), that has been overshadowed by subdivision activity being off by 80% compared to last year. This is because of the state of the economy and because the development community has too much supply (6,543 entitled unbuilt lots in Missoula and Missoula County).
- The general fund supported positions have been reduced by one-third. Two FTE were eliminated in the FY2010 budget. An additional 2.5 FTE were eliminated mid-year through a budget amendment. Two 2 FTE which were supported by the general fund were transferred to the planning mill mid-year.
- Those permanent reductions resulted in a reduction in FY2010 expenditures of \$166,000.00; approximately \$80,000.00 from the City and \$90,000.00 from the County.

Roger closed by mentioning that his third anniversary as Director was this Friday. He reviewed some of the Department's accomplishments and thanked the OPG management team and staff for their service.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation:

1 Based on the tracking of the variances. When staff recommends variances are the governing bodies generally in agreement or not. Mr. Millar stated that generally the staff is recommending denial of a variance and the governing body approves the variance. There are clear criteria listed for recommendations of variances both in the City Ordinance and the County Regulations, however the governing body can take into consideration other factors.

2 Are any of the enforcements dealing with the animated electronic signage after the ordinance was past? Mr. Millar replied there have been some complaints but it is not reflected in the numbers, which are through December 31 and the ordinance has only been in effect since November 4. The vast majority of enforcement is complaint driven. Councilman Strohmaier is compiling a list of animated sign issues and will supply that list to the OPG staff.

3 What is the full general fund support? Mr. Millar stated over one third of the general fund positions have been eliminated or approximately 10% of the budget, so the support is just over one million dollars, including the Historic Preservation Office, City support for Grants administration and the support for the Projects and Permits office.

4 How much of the general fund support are recaptured in fees? Mr. Millar replied about \$150,000.00.

4. Missoula Active Transportation Plan ([click on this link to view presentation](#))

Overview – Ann Cundy provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan.

- ✓ This is a community priority. In the LRTP 73.9 million dollars is identified over the next 25 years is prioritized for bike & pedestrian plans; 14.2 million is committed and plan to be constructed in the near future, but the remaining balance is over the life of the plan.
- ✓ This level of detail and community buy-in enables the Transportation Division of OPG to pursue other sources of funding such as the TIGER grant (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery). The MPO will find out in February whether or not the grant was awarded.
- ✓ Communities that have invested in transportation infrastructure and programs are considered highly desirable places to live.
- ✓ The purpose of the document update is to provide a framework for public and private development of active transportation facilities and programs within the context of the 2008 LRTP and the Missoula County Growth Policy.
- ✓ The Plan focuses on seven policy and planning areas:
 - Address Growth Policy goals and objectives
 - Connectivity to identify & prioritize the missing gaps
 - Accessibility that meet or exceed ADA standards
 - Health and Livability that maintains healthy community connection
 - Education and Outreach to balance projects and programs
 - Safety that advocates system for all users
 - Inter-Agency coordination
- ✓ The Process will be achieved through various advisory meetings, public involvement. The transportation website www.co.missoula.mt.us/transportation, social media and emails.
- ✓ A Kick Off Community Workshop will be held at the UC ballroom on Thursday, January 28, 2010 featuring Harrison Rue an internationally known Planner specializing in livable communities.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation:

1 What kind of priorities has been competed for public feedback? Ms. Cundy stated through the public involvement and the responses given during the Envision Missoula process and how the various projects are prioritized for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Millar replied this was a directive from the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee and included a statistically valid area wide polling of the citizens of Missoula and Missoula County that stated the priority was to have a balanced transportation system.

2 This is one of the highest priorities facing the City of Missoula.

5. County Parks and Trails Plan ([click on this link to view presentation](#))

Overview – Lisa Moisey provided an update on the County Parks and Trails Plan

- Along with updating the 1997 County Parks and Conservation Lands Plan, the parks plan update will integrate a trail component.
- The working name for the upgrade is The Integrated Parks and Trails Plan.
- The focus of the plan will be the area outside the urban area and outside of the boundary of the 2004 Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area. A one-year planning process is anticipated, beginning early March 2010 and completed in March 2011. The plan will be an amendment to the County Growth Policy.

- A planning process mission was developed, which includes a desire to coordinate and guide the development and maintenance of the County parks and trails with various citizen groups, City and County agencies, State agencies and others.
- Among the goals developed for the planning process is to encourage healthy communities.
- Parks will be engaging with the health community to provide active and healthy lifestyles for county residents through projected new parks and trails.
- One particular outcome of the plan is to implement a level of service analysis for parks and trails.

6. City Parks and Trails Plan ([click on this link to view presentation](#))

Overview - Donna Gaukler provided an update on the map project for the City Parks and Recreation.

- City Parks and Rec applied for a Recreation Trails Program grant through Fish, Wildlife and Parks to obtain a map or communication tool that will help the citizens find appropriate trails, loops for exercise, and various other connections. The back of the map will have a key to the many parks and various activities.
- It will show trails from the Milwaukee and the Bitterroot to all the connecting trails to the single track on the open spaces out to the forest service lands.
- This process was made possible by many different partners. This was completed by many staff hours but no money was taken out of the general funds.
- The maps will be sold for about \$2.00 and will be available this summer.
- The Milwaukee trail corridor will be connected from Russell Street to Reserve Street. There is a tunnel under Reserve Street, Public Works put an island on Russell Street for safety. The corridor trails have immense use.
- The other projects include working with Montana Rail Link and BNSF on making connections to the Milltown Dam Redevelopment site. Rails to Trails, the Forest Service and 5 Valley's Land Trust and others are wrling across the State of Montana to make connections to the Hiawatha Trail along the Milwaukee Corridor.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation:

- 1 How large is the City map. Ms. Gaukler stated the map is about 17 x 24 and will be PDF'ed and available on the web. Citizens will be able to select which map area they want and they will be able to print out the different sections.
- 2 Will these trails be accessible for ADA compliance and pets? Ms. Gaukler stated ADA trails would be featured as well as nature trails and closures as related to conservation lands.
- 3 Will this map be set up for Google transit? Ms. Gaukler stated that was the long term goal.
- 4 What types of documents are used for funding for trail building or grants. Ms. Gaukler stated all the plans that have been adopted by City Council are important to acquiring grants.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley Oly

Support Services Administrator
Office of Planning and Grants

(To listen to this meeting in its entirety, [click on this link](#))