



## PRESS RELEASE

November 26, 2013

**RE: Upcoming Whitefish City Hall Design Competition**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

After months of deliberation on the location of the new city hall and the pros and cons of a downtown parking structure, the Future City Hall Steering Committee, an ad hoc advisory committee, is taking steps to make the new city hall a reality. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Steering Committee (Steering Committee) will be hosting a design competition with four Montana architecture firms.

“The purpose of a design competition is to get a sense of each firm’s creativity at designing a city hall that fits our downtown along with a parking structure,” stated Sherri Baccaro, chair of the Steering Committee. The four architectural firms will present their ideas to the Steering Committee followed by an interview of each firm. The day-long process will start at 8:30 AM with Mosaic Architecture of Helena, MT followed by MMW Architecture from Missoula at 10:15 AM, CTA Architects and Engineers from Kalispell at 1:00 PM and J Constenius Architecture of Whitefish paired with OZ Architecture of Missoula at 2:45 PM. During their designated time each firm will spend thirty minutes presenting their design ideas for a city hall with a parking structure after which the Steering Committee will interview each firm. Upon the completion of the interview process, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Council on the architectural design firm that should be selected.

The public is invited to attend the City Hall Design Competition which will be held at Whitefish City Hall, 418 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Whitefish in the City Council Chambers. The public is welcome to attend the presentations, listen to the interview process and provide written comments on each firm’s proposal. The public may stay for part of the day or the entire day.

In 2011, the City Council decided to take a unique approach for the city hall project by utilizing a Steering Committee that would provide a broader perspective into this important

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public building. “There are advantages to be gained from using an ad hoc committee than the typical process for launching a public project of this scale and complexity. This is an important building in our town and we want to involve the expertise and ideas of our citizenry,” said Mayor John Muhlfeld. The Committee, comprising of the Mayor, a City Councilor, members of the public, city staff, a licensed architect, a representative from the Whitefish Chamber and a representative from the Heart of Whitefish, has been charged with studying, evaluating and recommending ideas for the location, design and architectural selection for the future City Hall to the City Council.

A new city hall was identified in the 1987 Urban Renewal Plan and 2005 Downtown Master Plan as a needed project. A new city hall will provide effective and efficient services to the public. Currently, city staff is located in several locations and the existing building is past its useful life. The city looked at remodeling the existing building, but it was not financially feasible to remodel the building due to structural deficiencies, and the addition of a proposed parking structure also limits the ability of reusing the building.

For more information, please visit the City of Whitefish website at [www.whitefish.govoffice.com](http://www.whitefish.govoffice.com). Project specific information can be found by clicking on “Committees, Boards and Commissions” and selecting “Future City Hall Ad Hoc Steering Committee”. Steering Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for future meetings are also listed on the City’s webpage and meetings are held at the Whitefish City Council Chamber conference room at City Hall.

Comments concerning the project may be mailed to: Sherri Baccaro, City of Whitefish, Future City Hall Steering Committee Chair, PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937. Comments may also be submitted by email to [publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org](mailto:publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org). Participants attending the public open house are welcome to submit comments at that time.

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