CAP Standing Committee Meeting

Minutes for

December 18, 2019

In Attendance

Committee Members: Hilary Lindh, Karin Hilding, Kate McMahon, Melissa Hartman, Joe Page, Jen Sybrant, Casey Lewis

Public: Dabney Langellier, Tom Schneider, Lisa Shepard, Nicole Birt, Bill Baum

A. Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm
B. Minutes of Nov. 20, 2019 approved
C. Progress Report: Status updates from Committee
   - Karin reviewed status of the CAP’s priority action items.
     - Majority of residential streetlights changed to LED
     - Emergency Service upgrades – Commissioning report completed. LED lights will be replaced one at a time as existing ones fail.
     - Energy Corp Intern will look into progress on reducing vehicle miles for city use. City has purchased some bikes.
     - Solar Farm – Dependent on funding
     - Fire adaptive community – Joe Page has filed for this. Should still work with smaller areas to be Firewise. Not making much progress because city residents don’t think this is an issue for them. Evacuation during peak summer times is an issue because tourists aren’t familiar with city. There was agreement that there should be more events on fire preparedness. Work with Climate Smart Glacier Country on events. Discussion to work with DNRC to possibly do a neighborhood audit.
     - Public works has undertaken several measures to reduce demands on water & wastewater treatment plants. Have replaced cast iron pipes. Reduced illegal sump pumps. Instituted water conservation regulations. Increase in rates will also decrease usage.
     - CSE workshops at Whitefish High School were held last year. Nothing yet planned for next year.
     - Sustainability coordinator – Committee should draft job description and then circulate to city departments for review. Can use that to make formal request at budget time. Casey will email sample description.
   - Melissa provided an update on plastic bag issue.
     - Conduct Survey to assess interest. Ryder previously developed a survey that Melissa will circulate to the Committee for review.
o Question about reducing plastic bag use relates to the goals in the Climate Action Plan
o Next step - Develop list of questions and have energy corp intern research. Melissa will email questions to committee for members to review.

- Hilary provided an update on Planning Dept. activities.
  o MDT has begun study for the highway in the core area. Public meeting to be scheduled in February.
  o Town Pump is looking at property at Hwy 40 & US 93. Might be an opportunity for park and ride.
  o Distributed new signs for recycling drop-off site – preliminary for review
  o Change of meeting time? – Casey can only participate in evening. Karin & Hilary will talk to Ryder.

D. Eagle Transit

- Presentation on proposed transit plan – Mountain Climber
- County Commissioners voted to terminate cooperative agreement with the GNP. Agency on Aging/Eagle Transit is still in talks with park to resume contact and to discuss the vision for the future.
- Putting together workgroups to look at funding & routes
- Timeline – Immediate concern is getting a commitment from GNP. If that falls through, then need to rework concept.
- Will be asking cities to contribute funds.
- Will want to focus on how to serve the commuters between city.
- Karin noted that the City will be updating the city transportation plan in 2020. Transit will be a part of that planning. Consultant should contact Eagle Transit.
- Electric bus – Interested but funding fell through. Looking at the Missoula as case study for electric bus to see if it could work. Electric buses are much more expensive than the new bus they are planning to purchase over the next year.
- Communities should let GNP that the Mountain Climber is important.

E. Public Comment

- No public comment for this meeting.

F. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Next meeting: January 15, 2019