

City Council Work Session

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

September 4, 2018 (Tuesday)

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council (please check) Cole, Cromley, Yakawich, Brewster, Ewalt, Joy, Friedel, Gibbs, Ronning, Clark, Brown.

CM excused: NONE

ADJOURN TIME: 9:53 pm

Agenda

TOPIC #1	1 st Avenue North Project Update
PRESENTER	Kirk Spalding - Sanderson Stewart
NOTES/OUTCOME	Powerpoint presentation, project basics, project team (MDT, Sanderson-Stewart, Stakeholders, Local Agencies), project schedule, status (30% design completed), slides of typical sections of roadway design (pros and cons), street lighting options, landscaping inventory, visioning ideas, public involvement, project contacts.

- Mayor – funding sources, Stefan Streeter, MDT: National Highway Funds, state match, get into 5 year plan, funds available.
- CM Friedel – state reconstruction, any SID's? Spalding: no local match or private funding, could establish lighting districts, When will construction start/finish, how long? Spalding: No answer yet, estimate 2 season project.
- CM Yakawich – thanks for Lake Elmo and Main. Bike paths on 2nd and 3rd Avenue? Spalding: will go back and take a look at, see what makes most sense. Businesses on Hilltop were hurt when construction was up there, how will businesses be dealt with during this construction? Spalding: contracts include continued access to business. Systematically work area to impact businesses less.
- CM Brewster – where is double turn lane at 13th Street. Streeter: Under railroad tracks.
- CM Clark – bike lanes in same lanes as cars, 1st Avenue made to move traffic, bike lane will impede traffic. Spalding: thank you for opinion.
- Mayor – importance of 1st Avenue setting and business district, run ins on Montana Avenue, how to calm traffic on 1st Avenue? Spalding: Landscaping and curb build outs.
- **Public Comment:**
None
- Brewster – do not do bike lanes on 1st Ave North, glad to hear build outs and timing of lights.

TOPIC #2	Community Center – (Billings Senior Citizens, BSC, Inc.)
PRESENTER	Triniti Halverson, Senior Services Specialist
NOTES/OUTCOME	Halverson – going through Powerpoint presentation, introduction and qualifications, overview of center and history, why is PRPL taking over – PRPL has always been there.

- Mayor – opening comments before presentations.
- City Administrator McCandless: dispute with non-profit corporation, not senior citizens, City is not suspending or eliminating services, City is not expanding City offices into the Senior center.
- CM Brown – PRPL funding activities, what is other organization funding? Halverson: Contribute towards birthday parties, entertainment, board members help with decorating center.
- Mayor – BSC have done, dances, garage sales, etc., BSC used to hold those inside senior center, source of contention, could not displace senior activities, other alternatives for dates/times/requirement, dances have moved.
- CM Brewster – past practices did not require insurance? Halverson: Other activities were required to have insurance for activities.
- CM Ewalt – Parks & Rec. staff always been in charge? Halverson: Yes.
- CM Brown – not asking BSC to do anything that other non-profits aren't required to do.
- Mayor – what is understanding of proposed lease space? Halverson: Don't have empty space, Park Board moved meetings to allow for more space.
- CM Brown – who is leading all classes and activities? Park and Recreation staff or Adult Resource Alliance is providing services, some classes are paid by students and people brought in.
- CM Yakawich – received 12 calls, 11 happy with center, isn't that why the center is there? Halverson: Yes, trying to create a happy place for people.
- Marilynn Richardson Campbell, BSC Inc. President – July 26th telephone call to Mayor, August 6th Council Meeting, Mayor never called, things are not as wonderful as Ms. Halverson says. History of center, Parks staff wants BSC out of building. want to lease building. Let BSC maintain center how it was previously done.
- Joe Fedin – introduction and background, managed senior centers for 44 years, BSC provided lots of materials and equipment to center, Powerpoint presentation, bit of history, floor plan of building, change that brought us here. Options presented to move forward, discussion of options 1 and 2.
- CM Brown – serious accusations on staff, City Administrator to investigate, advocating for seniors or BSC, mostly directed to board members.
- CM Cromley – never understood why \$10 fee thought it was to use facility

- Mayor – space proposed for lease, exclusive use common room and everything south? What is being used during daytime hours? Fedin: rooms 1-5 shared with Parks and Rec.
- CM Joy – hours spent by staff working on this issue, lots of time, why do you think no agreement has been achieved? Fedin: two agreements before don't feel they were worth paper worked on, mgmt. failed to recognize real problem, human nature to back up staff.
- CM Ronning – voice is heard, disturbed by code of conduct, where do you see Council helping you now? Fedin: City needs to look at being involved in senior business, putting staff needs ahead of others, City Council to make decision to be back to well managed center, courtesy, involve seniors in advisory capacity.
- CM Ewalt – before last two years \$10 fee covered everything, now charge for any service, some people didn't know they were joining a 501c3.
- CM Clark – games still running at center. Fedin: numbers are down.
- Mayor – hire staff, take over space, offer programs. That would be 2nd option
- Recess at 7:47 pm, reconvene at 7:55 pm
- **Public Comment:** limit time to 1 minute, hands on how many people would like to speak, 10 or so.
- Clara Bell Gibson, 4340 Lucky Penny Lane, Billings, Montana – standing up for senior center for way it was, on board for 8 years, had good time until a few years ago, was very nice pleasant place to go, weren't handed rules, hearing stories from many seniors on what is happening at center.
- Elizabeth Litman, no address given – why not hire professional massage therapist?
- Buddy Shroeder, 1906 Belvedere Drive, Billings, Montana – go to community center every week, play bingo, Joe had 1:15 time, Triniti only had 15 minutes, Joe talking bull, functions are enjoyable, people here tonight not at functions.
- Mona Desman, 18 Maier Road, Billings, Montana – teacher at Senior Center, worked through both regimes, been there weekly, tone of tension, based on new philosophy and an education center, people come to hang out and talk.
- Sandy Weasel, 1906 Belvedere Drive, Billings, Montana – go there to hang out, you have a choice, should be up to seniors, would like someone like Triniti, full of life. City staff makes seniors feel alive.
- Joy Mallard, 208 3rd Avenue, Laurel, Montana – takes classes at Senior Center, when new team came on, huge change, new staff is not in touch with seniors, heard staff people on verge of anger speak disrespectfully. The way things were done before was much more pleasant and enriching.
- JoAnne Kersich, 2744 Gregory Drive, Billings, Montana – lots of vacant rooms around City, let seniors run their own center. City Park and Rec. department can go to those vacant rooms. Have received phone call that people were told to leave, physical abuse.
- Connie Wardell, P.O. Box 21432, Billings, Montana – part of Senior Center in 1990 - 2000's, 30-40 people hanging out. Went this morning, never offered by staff to become a part of the center, sign that says we can't help you, don't ask, list of rules, doesn't not feel like it is ours anymore.

- Gordon Campbell, 1530 Custer Avenue, Billings, Montana – don't participate in programs, but active in Grandmas Attic recycling and donations, 8-9 months ago they no longer take donations. Have to fill out forms, 9 out of 10 turned down.
- Jackie Rumpf, MSU extension office employee – research and applies to practical needs to community, partnered with PRPL, programs offered, partnership has been great opportunity.
- Jackie Peppin, 144 Piccolo Lane, Billings, Montana – enjoyed Senior Center, lovely place to be, volunteered under Robin. Would call people to wish them happy birthday, pay dues free lunch, hearing much unhappiness, not comfortable there, controlled and dictated, tension, questionnaire was snatched away. Would like seniors back in charge, no give and take, no inclination to take over center.
- Jim Warburton, 3444 Lucky Penny Lane, Billings, Montana – member of Parks Board, admiration for Parks staff, programs are growing. Triniti does well, confidence in staff, if Senior Center came to Parks Board I would say no: CM Cromley – BSC ever come to Parks Board with issues? No.
- Jerry Bauck, 924 Steffans Drive, Billings, Montana – alternate board member for BSC, asking not to eliminate but include programs into space.
- Dale Englett, 3045 Canyon Drive, Billings, Montana – wife on board of directors, wife in charge of senior dances, Parks department told her that even though she was employed by City - was not allowed access to kitchen. Parks dept. put young man as chaperone, billed for 5 hours for young man at \$35/hr, lots of BSC members are qualified. CM Brown – is it a liability issue? Might be lack of communication.
- Pat Bennet, 5904 Shining Mountain Road, Billings, Montana – City staff custodian, I know every day main concern is seniors, love job, staff represent seniors well every day. CM Ronning – been at facility for 4 years, what do you see at facility on how things are being ran? Differences yes, no garage sales or fundraisers. Other things similar. CM Yakawich – what do you see at the center? 45-80 people for bingo, slow moments, meals offered but some older folks not able to get there.
- Roxy Blinco, 526 Beverly Hill Boulevard, Billings, Montana – going to center for 12-15 years, have not quit going because of new staff, new person hard to get to know, I was seeing unfriendly person for first year. Favor giving back center to seniors and not paying for lease.
- JB Alexander, 1940 Gleneagles, Billings, Montana – seen lots of changes, seeing not highly qualified person, need practice, people not being heard and changes being implemented. Failure to communicate, not serving seniors.
- Joe Fedin – there is a problem going on way too long, not clear communication. Suggested to McCandless sit down and talk, no response. Mission City staff has had is not working, option 2 or option 1. CM Brown – if we came down and pay for insurance and other items, is there any room for compromise? Yes, in the past there has been a reluctance to talk.
- Marilynn Richardson Campbell – volunteering for 14 years, Pat is very difficult.
- CM Brown – has the vision changed in the management? McCandless – community center and BSC grew up together, former director left and relationship changed. City staff was providing almost total support for non-profit, which is not

appropriate. Talked with BSC for 6 hours trying to get use agreement between City and BSC. Constant assault on staff on way things have changed, dependent relationship cannot continue, legal barriers, offered mediation, mediation was not successful. Interpersonal relationships were too damaged. Senior advisory board

- CM Ronning – any other non-profit in which there is a similar relationship? McCandless – everyone else has some sort of user agreement.
- CM Yakawich – do not see things broken, does not support fixing, Triniti does well, keep center running as is.
- CM Cromley – agree with Yakawich, Alliance Board happy, staff relationships with seniors is good, firsthand knowledge.
- CM Brown – don't see reason to throw Parks out, unfortunate but won't support leasing.
- CM Joy – feel lot of hurt on both sides, communication has been positive, staff encouraging, unfortunate, staff professional, support current format.
- CM Brewster – hope everyone can find happy medium, will not undermine City staff, hope he would reach out to them one more time and try to find some relevancy, way to make work.
- CM Friedel – communication important, have rules set, if don't teach staff rules or policies then not fair on staff. Major issue communication, what are true issues, what was going on was working, don't reinvent the wheel.
- CM Ronning – value of BSC, human issues not political, also see City staff doing good things, commend Bruce McCandless. Hope City staff may be able to find a different way this building can function.
- Mayor – Councils roll is handling City Administrator. All other City staff is under Bruce McCandless.
- CM Clark – do not see having a lease with senior group, need to work together to figure this out. Once you give it, you help all seniors and belongs to seniors.
- CM Ewalt – letter from senior group, involved in discussion with BSC, seniors look at things different, seniors see little things as big issues at senior center. Big question – 40 years didn't even now it existed and ran well, last 2 years went bad, ways things can be worked out.
- CM Gibbs – good relationship with McCandless and staff, angst and concern whether real or perceived still there.
- Mayor – appreciate comments, problems are real, improve communication with seniors. Do not support lease option, not sure BSC is committed to it, support working out differences.

TOPIC #3	Council Discussion
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- CM Yakawich – would like a police report from Chief St. John. See how things are doing, chance to share solutions. McCandless – will arrange it.
- CM Joy – good idea. Overview of staffing needs, high profile incidents.
- CM Friedel – citizens have been calling about Riverfront Parks holes. McCandless – patched holes just reappear. Long term fix will be more expensive.

- Mayor – Riverfront roads and Exxon funds.
- CM Ewalt – who decides work on roads and street and traffic, follow up in regards to issue at 62nd and Rimrock.
- CM Ronning – Parking garage mural, unveiling on September 22nd at Farmers Market.
- CM Joy – download app on parking garage mural.
- CM Friedel – September 15th at 2 pm, Terry Park BBQ.
- CM Yakawich – 911 program on Tuesday 9-1.
- CM Ronning – first responders were the flight attendants.
- Brent Brooks, City Attorney – noise ordinance public comment open, 6-7 comments, send report to all task force officers. Send to HBA, realtors association, development coordination group.
- **Public Comment:**
None

TOPIC #4	Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
PRESENTER	
NOTES/OUTCOME	

- Jim Warburton, 3444 Lucky Penny Lane, Billings, Montana – Rimrock Road construction issues, BSC personality issues happening, code of conduct was brought up by Parks Board. Weren't necessary for seniors but other people coming into the center. We are people doing the best we can. CM Brown – has Parks Board thought of ways to get message out? Warburton – More people need to become involved.
- Mayor – Reach Billings app that notifies people about road information.