

****ATTENTION****

Due to the COVID-19 health concerns, the format of the City Council meeting will be held in a virtual videoconferencing environment. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know in Article II, sections 8 and 9, of the Montana Constitution, the City of Billings and City Council are making every effort to meet the requirements of the open meeting laws:

- The Agenda Packet is available for viewing on the City's website at: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/117/Agendas-Minutes>
- Councilmembers will attend the meeting via a remote location, using a virtual meeting method. City Hall and the Council Chambers will be closed during the meeting.
- The Public may view the meeting on the Community 7 TV - Channel 7 or Channel 507 – Spectrum Cable. On evenings when there is a conflict with School District No. 2 Board meetings, the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Channel 8 - Spectrum Cable. The Public may also view online at www.comm7tv.com and click on the "Watch Live" icon. Community 7 also has links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel in which to view the meeting. The Public may also watch meetings by accessing the City's website at <https://ci.billings.mt.us> and click on "Watch Meetings Online".
- Emails received after 3:00 PM will be posted on the Council's webpage the following day for public viewing.
- Public comment will be taken only during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda. Comments may be sent to Council via email before 3:00 PM, on Monday, November 2, 2020, at: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/1538/City-Council-E-mail-Messages>
- The Public may call in during specific Public Comment periods at **406.237.6196**. All callers will be in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be restricted to 3 minutes of testimony as is customary.

Future delivery methods may be explored as best practice is learned.

Please contact City Clerk, Denise Bohlman, at bohlmand@billingsmt.gov, or 657-8210 with any questions.

CITY OF BILLINGS

CITY OF BILLINGS VISION STATEMENT:

“THE MAGIC CITY: A DIVERSE, WELCOMING COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE PROSPER AND BUSINESS SUCCEEDS.”

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Council Chambers are CLOSED.
The meeting will be held remotely
via virtual meeting room. Please see
coversheet for details and
instructions for viewing and
participation.

November 2, 2020

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cole

1. Council Holiday Schedule

(Presented by: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator)

- Public Comment

2. Parks and Recreation Quarterly Update

(Presented by: Michael Whitaker, Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Director; Mike Pigg, Superintendent of Parks; Mark Jarvis, Park Planner; Paul Reinhardt, Community Outreach Specialist; and Kory Thomson, Recreation Superintendent)

- Public Comment

3. Project ReCode - Zoning Code Amendment and Zoning Map Update

(Presented by Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator)

- Public Comment

4. Economic Development Strategy Partner Update.

(Presented by: Steve Arveschoug, Executive Director, Big Sky Economic Development)

- Public Comment

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

PUBLIC COMMENT on “NON-AGENDA ITEMS”. **Speaker Sign-in required.** *(Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or as set by the Mayor. Please call 237-6196 during the public comment period.)*

ADJOURN:

Note:

- This meeting is an “informal” meeting of the City Council. The content of the Agenda is subject to change at the meeting.
- In the event there is a Closed Executive Session at the end of a Work Session, the sole purpose is to discuss litigation strategy. The other parties to the case(s) discussed are not public bodies or associations as described in Section 2-3-203(1) and (2), MCA. The meeting is closed, as allowed by Section 2-3-203(4)(a), MCA, “to discuss a strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position” of the City of Billings.
- Council meetings may be viewed at any time by accessing Community 7 Television online at www.comm7tv.com and clicking on archived programs.

Council Work Session

1.

Meeting Date: 11/02/2020

TITLE: Council Holiday Schedule

Department: City Hall Administration

Presentation: No

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council direct staff to replace the second work session of the month (December 21st) with the second regular business meeting and vacate the December 28th Regular Business meeting date.

BACKGROUND

Per Billings, Montana City Code, Sec. 2-211, City Council shall hold regular business meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, unless the meeting would fall on a day recognized as a holiday, then the meeting would be held on the following day (Tuesday). Any regular business meeting may be canceled or rescheduled by majority vote of the Council at any time prior to the date scheduled for such meetings. Traditionally, during the month of December, Councilmembers and staff are on extended holiday leave during the week of Christmas. Therefore, the second work session meeting of the month (third Monday) is vacated in order to hold the second regular business meeting.

This year Christmas is on Friday of the fourth week. Staff is asking for Council's direction whether to replace the second work session (December 21st) with the second regular business meeting and vacate the December 28th meeting date, or leave it as is.

ALTERNATIVES

City Council may:

- Approve staff's recommendation to alter meeting schedule; or
- Disapprove staff's recommendation to alter the December meeting schedule and leave it as is with 2 Work Sessions in December and 2 Regular Business meetings.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Not applicable.

Council Work Session

2.

Meeting Date: 11/02/2020

TITLE: Parks and Recreation Quarterly Update

PRESENTED BY: Mike Whitaker, Parks, Recreation & Public Lands Director

Department: Parks/Rec/Public Lands

Division: Parks

RECOMMENDATION

No action will be required by Council on this item.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

A Parks and Recreation quarterly update will be provided to the Mayor and Council.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable

FISCAL EFFECTS

Not applicable

Attachments

Parks & Rec Quarterly Report



To: Mayor and City Council
CC: Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
From: Michael Whitaker, Director
Date: October 8, 2020
Re: 3rd Quarter Report

Recreation Division



Summer Aquatic Operations: Under Phase 2 of the Governor’s Re-opening the Big Sky Plan, the Recreation Division was able to formulate health and safety protocols to meet the guidelines for opening the pools on June 3rd. With the assistance and cooperation from John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer, we received approval to open Rose and South Park community pools and the wading pools at Pioneer and Hawthorne Parks on May 26th. Under the Phase 2 opening for aquatic facilities, we were only allowed a 75% capacity at the pools along with numerous cleaning and distancing procedures that had to be adhered to daily.

In total, the Recreation Division employed 46 American Red Cross certified lifeguards to supervise both the community and wading pools. As a result of the Montana University System deciding to start the fall semester two weeks earlier than normal, we lost nearly 50% of the lifeguards needed to safely operate the pools. With the reduced staffing levels, we had to make the difficult decision to close the wading pools and South pool one week earlier than we had anticipated.

Overall, throughout what was an extraordinary summer season due to COVID-19, the community pools only saw a 6% decrease in attendance as compared to the previous year. A total of 38,812 people visited our community pools in 2020. Interestingly, we saw an increase of 17% in concession sales. It appears that the families and children who enjoyed their summer aquatic experience stayed at the pools for a much longer duration than past years and enjoyed having a cheeseburger for lunch and some extra ice cream later in the day.

To go hand and hand with recreational open swim for children and families, the Recreation Division also provided aquatic programming, which incorporated 343 children enrolled in our American Red Cross Learn to Swim program, 69 adult lap swimmers, and 18 children enrolled in our new all-day aquatic camp, Junior Lifeguarding.

The aquatic staff was commended for doing a tremendous job keeping our facilities safe and enjoyable for the community this summer.



In preparation for the summer of 2021, the Recreation Division has started work on two projects that will assist in getting our aquatic facilities ready for the season. At Rose Pool, the Recreation Staff is busy upgrading the chlorine delivery system. The renovation includes building a new manifold and replacing the lines that deliver the chlorine to the pool. At South Pool, due to the rapid deterioration of the pool liner originally installed in 2007, we replaced it with a new liner. The project was completed at the end of September. The new liner will reduce water loss and provides a safe surface that protects children's feet from the abrasive concrete floor.

Summer Camps Wrap-Up: In the midst of the impacts from COVID-19, the Recreation Division rose to the challenge of providing safe and enjoyable programs for the Community. In cooperation with the Yellowstone County Health Officials and approved health and safety protocols, we offered programs and summer camps at a reduced capacity of 75%. The Recreation Division successfully ran three all-day Youth Camps during summer 2020. These protocols included temperature checks, a great deal of cleaning and sanitizing, along with social distancing and other safety measures. Although it was a challenging summer, our seasonal staff did an amazing job keeping kids healthy and happy.



The Adventure Camp Series: This program was able to do many of the outdoor activities we normally do. Activities including, whitewater rafting, rappelling, horseback riding, swimming, and many more filled each day. This summer we started a Youth Leadership Week to close out the summer. William Henry, of Be Better World, spent the mornings with our campers teaching them a variety of leadership and anti-bullying skills while promoting teamwork with activities that engaged all campers. Our Adventure Camp Series was maxed out in enrollment each of the twelve weeks at 26 kids.

Magic City Summer Camp: This camp also participated in some similar outdoor activities. Magic City also filled in some mornings doing fitness classes, yoga, and acting classes. We normally would include many trips that we feel fall into the category of education. These would include trips to museums and historical sites around the Billings area. Unfortunately, many of these indoor educational sites were shut down during the summer months. Magic City kept an enrollment number between 20-26 kids each week.



Pioneer Playhouse: This camp is our youngest group (age 5-8) and does not travel. However, our Coordinator at Playhouse does an amazing job of doing themed weeks that are fun and educational. Each day is broken up with walking trips down to the Pioneer Park playground and wading pool. This camp keeps a 5:1 ratio of kids to counselors so that no camper feels left out and no counselor feels overwhelmed. This camp had consistent enrollment between 35 and 45 kids each of the twelve weeks.

The Recreation Division also provides a number of specialty camps. These camps are a weeklong and focus on a special skill, activity, or themes. One of our most popular theme is of course water. We ran **AquaNutz** and **Junior AquaNutz** out of Rose Park Pool. Programming included scuba diving, canoeing, snorkeling, whitewater rafting, and lots of swimming. This camp was run on two separate weeks and had full enrollment (20) each week. Junior AquaNutz offered basically the same programming, just geared towards a younger age group.



Girls Ninja Warrior Camp: This girl's only camp was run by our summer intern Jordyn Sartorie. Jordyn did an excellent job of taking this camp and making it her own with new programming and the same Girls Ninja Warrior feel. She added activities like 9 round kickboxing, martial arts classes, and an escape room.

Kids in the Kitchen: This camp is always full (12 kids) of young chefs looking to learn the basics of cooking. Our instructors did an admirable job of teaching beginner and intermediate recipes and food prep skills that the campers will use throughout the rest of their lives.

Rocket Camp: Rocket Camp focuses on the history and science behind rocketry and propulsion. Each camper builds and decorates their own rocket throughout the week. The last day of camp is launch day. Amend Park is always eager to have the kids there to launch their rockets, and they provide a safe, wide-open space for the campers to launch their rockets.



White Water Rafting: Saturday, July 18th was our Family and Group Whitewater Rafting trip that had its highest enrollment yet (20). The Recreation Division facilitated and bused two groups to the Stillwater River, where Absaroka River Adventures took them on a whitewater excursion.



Youth Cycling Camp: This camp was run in partnership with *Kids In Motion*, which is a non-profit within School District #2, and had a full enrollment of 12 kids. *Kids in Motion* prides themselves on fixing up bikes for underprivileged kids in the Billings Area and doing it for free. The Recreation Division decided to convert our Mountain Biking Camp into the new Youth Cycling Camp so that this service could become available

at one of our programs. The camp went from 1 ½ hours to 3 hours and now includes teaching basic bike maintenance to all campers. Each camper was given a tool kit, provided by *Kids in Motion* that will be able to handle all common bike repairs. The campers were taught bike safety and best practices on all of these different types of terrain and now can call themselves masters of their bikes. We will be very excited to keep this program going next summer.

ePACT Software: Our summer camps utilized our new ePACT software all summer to great success. This program was a way to make our camps paperless and all emergency info available on a dedicated camp tablet. ePACT offers a contactless, paperless method for the Recreation Staff to securely collect, manage, and access essential participant information and updates. This includes emergency contact information and instructions, forms for medical, waivers, and consent, and personal health and safety needs. We were able to use the program to record check-in and check-out of all campers and those lists were then archived for review by the Recreation staff at any time. There are many other features that will make ePACT a staple at camps going into the future.



City of Billings Tennis Academy: Billings Parks and Recreation's City of Billings Tennis Academy expanded programming in both youth tennis and adult tennis during summer 2020. Our daily programming, taught at three locations (Castle Rock, Rose, and Pioneer Parks) with 10 Net Generation certified instructors, saw 172 individual participants. In August, we added a traveling Junior Team

Tennis event where we took 9 junior players to Belgrade to compete in a one-day event against players from the Bozeman Area. We also hosted our annual End of Summer Non-Elimination tournament that saw 14 individual players ending our summer youth tennis programming. Given the circumstances and restrictions within the COVID-19 Pandemic, we saw this year's tennis programming as a big success and hope to continue this growth through the year.

Our adult lessons saw over 60 participants through our beginner and Intermediate lessons as well as our two new program offerings. These new classes were "**Live Ball Under the Lights**," a cardio tennis class, and "**Adult Drill and Play**," a structured class including equal instruction and play. Having adult classes each weeknight sparked a large amount of interest within the "new to tennis" adult community. We are excited to see how we can expand our programming with this user group in the future.



Youth Music Programs: Billings Parks and Recreation continued its youth music programming for in summer 2020. Back for its third year, **Rock Band Camp** took place in late July at Ben Steel Middle School and had five young musicians participate. Though this is a low number for this camp, we are very grateful we were able to work with School District #2 to implement a new music safety protocol to safely and successfully host this camp. During the end of camp performance this year, we worked with Mike Tutja of Midnight Blues Entertainment Group to professionally sound engineer the concert. This allowed the campers to get the full experience of playing a true rock concert. This year's **Keyboard Kamp**, hosted at the Billings Community Center, had eight total participants. This camp, following the same safety protocols as Rock Band Camp, proved another successful example of how in-person music can be taught during these "new normal" times.

Sports Camps and Leagues: In July and August, Billings Parks and Rec continued to provide an opportunity for the youth of the community to participate in a variety of our sports programs with our Sports Camp Series. This included three sessions of **Soccer Camp**, two sessions of **Basketball Camp**, and two sessions of **Volleyball Camp**. Soccer camp took place at beautiful Amend Park, while Basketball and Volleyball took place at North Park and Grandview Park, respectively. In all, we had 79 participants in the three camps.

The 7th year of **Cheer and Dance Camp** kicked off in mid-July that included two age groups with 17 participants. The weeklong camp concluded with a performance at North Park for the parents and guests of the participants.

Flag Football had another successful camp in August with 27 participants honing their passing, running, and athletic skills at Veteran's Park. We were excited to be able to hire one of our regular NFL Flag Football coaches as our August camp coach. This camp leads directly into our NFL Flag Football season that runs from early September to early November with games hosted on Saturdays at Gorham Park.

Junior Golf Lessons had thirty-two young adults (5 girls, 27 boys) ranging from 8-14 years old teed it up on the links for golf lessons at our Par 3 course in late June and early July. The 4 sessions for each age group provided the opportunity to improve their golf swing, chipping, putting, and overall play on the golf course. They also learned proper golf etiquette with a focus on honesty, integrity, and patience.

Summer Coed Adult Soccer successfully kicked off in June and ended in early August. The two-month-long season consisted of 11 weeks of regular season play with seven teams playing on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Amend Park. In August, the contests moved to Sunday afternoons with the last two weeks of play consisting of an end of the year tournament. The league focused on teams and players enjoying the game, getting some exercise, and having fun.



StrikeZone Batting Cages at Stewart Park:

The StrikeZone Batting Cages at Stewart Park originally scheduled to open in early April was delayed due to COVID-19. The Recreation Division submitted a health and safety plan and received approval to

open on May 12th. We saw a gradual increase in usage as the summer has progressed. Due to the delayed start, and missing the month of April, which is usually a very good month, we did not reach our typical revenue estimates. As Little League Baseball and Adult Softball began their seasons, we were there to provide both children and adults the opportunity to take their swings at getting ready for their seasons.

Senior Services at the Community Center: The Billings Community and Senior Center has been closed to the general public since March 18 due to COVID-19. During the Phase 2 provisions, which allowed us to open for programming, we started on June 10th by offering **Strong and Fit** and **Fitness by Design** classes. We have continued to expand fitness opportunities for our seniors by opening the fitness room through appointment only. While a few of our seniors cannot join us due to health concerns, our classes like Strong and Fit have maxed out and our Fitness by Design is at about 75% capacity as well. Prior to COVID, we had an average of 50-100 visits per day! Since reopening for programming only, we are getting an average of 35-45 people per day.



In July, we started two **Chair Yoga** classes and in August we added **Discovering Nutrition, Cooking for 1, Oil Painting,** and two **Sit and Get Fit** classes, that have been increasing in participation each session. The number of program offerings have almost doubled in 2 months and are continuing to add more in the upcoming months. We are also looking for ways to create more virtual programming to bring more programming into our senior's homes.

While cards, games, and bingo are not permitted during Phase 2, we are continuing to find many ways to create programming that helps seniors to stay active and fit. Phase 2 also does not allow for meals on-site or celebrations with large gatherings. Since gatherings are not permitted, we have been sending out birthday cards and vouchers for birthday bags to remind our seniors we still are thinking of them. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from our seniors who have received the cards and birthday bags. They are calling and saying how much they appreciate the thought and some even say that the birthday bag may be the only gift they receive.



In September we started an evening **Zumba Gold** class for seniors 55-65. Many of these individuals came from the Aqua Zumba Class held at Rose Park Pool this summer! Many of the participants had an interest in staying active during the entire year, saying they do not do anything from September through May. Over the next 3 months, we have more programs starting, which offer more alternatives to stay fit and age gracefully. We will continue to watch for any new orders as they come out to ensure that we are going by local, state, and federal guidelines while providing valuable and safe programming.

Upcoming Fall Programs...



Our **NFL Flag Football** program has participation from over 100 girls and boys throughout the community. This program is offered at Castle Rock, Hawthorne, Optimist, Veterans, Gorham and Country Manor Parks. The program includes 5 Saturday game days held at Gorham Park starting October 10th. All participants receive replica NFL jerseys from the teams selected to represent each site. These teams included the 49ers, Seahawks, Bears, Cardinals, Vikings, Chiefs, Chargers, Eagles, Steelers, and Broncos.



The **Girls' 4th-6th Grade Basketball** program starts in early October on the 12th and was offered at all 6 Middle Schools (Medicine Crow, Castle Rock, Riverside, Lewis & Clark, Will James, and Ben Steele). Our Grade School Basketball program is offered in partnership with School District #2 providing 6th-grade students a program that utilizes the gymnasiums at

the schools in which they attend. We continue to see a steady increase in participation since the program moved to the middle schools. Participation is up over 60% since 2016 when the program utilized only elementary schools throughout the community.



The **Tennis is Elementary** program, offered in conjunction with USTA Montana, started in 2018 as a new program to introduce children to tennis and keep them active during the offseason. The program is available after school in the two elementary schools (Orchard and Meadowlark). Participation continues to increase each session/season as more children are exposed to QuickStart Tennis, which is designed to bring kids to the game by utilizing smaller racquets, slower and lighter balls, and shorter court dimensions, all tailored to the age and size of the child. It is divided into two different levels, ages 8 and under and ages 9-10. All equipment needed is provided in partnership with USTA Montana.



The **Adult Coed Soccer and Volleyball Leagues** continue to be a staple for fall adult recreation. A total of 6 teams are competing in the Adult Soccer League which plays on Sunday afternoons at Amend Park. The Recreation Staff is looking forward to the next possible World Cup in 2020 when interest in soccer seems to

spike and participation increases. The Coed Volleyball League utilizes Castle Rock Middle School for games on Sunday afternoons throughout the fall and early winter months. All 18 teams will qualify for a double-elimination tournament based on their records from the regular season. Championship matches will be held on December 6th in both the Competitive and Recreation Divisions.

With the recent grand opening of the first dedicated pickleball courts at Lillis Park last week, Billings Parks and Recreation is excited to offer **Beginner Adult Pickle Ball Lessons** beginning Tuesday, September 29th. The lessons will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday's from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm at Lillis Park. The lessons will focus on the introduction to pickleball, basic skills, and strategy for you to learn and play one of the fastest-growing sports.



Park Planning and Development

Annafeld Parks: Phase one of this project has developed 4 pocket parks and a large 5-acre park. The contractor has begun maintenance operations and will have this obligation until the spring of 2021 after which the Parks Division will assume those responsibilities. Phase two is underway and includes bank improvements along the Hogan Slough and Yellowstone River and the installation of playground equipment at the 5-acre park. The playground is scheduled to be completed by the first part of October.

Centennial Park Development: On July 7th the construction at Centennial Park was completed. In addition, the contractor has finished all adjustments and corrections to the site. Park staff is now managing the park and are working to establish the turf. The park will officially open by June 1, 2021. While the turf is getting established, parks staff is moving forward planting the shrub beds in the parking lot and at the entrances to the dog off-leash area.

The all-season modular concrete restroom has been constructed and the manufacturer is currently obtaining a building permit. Once the permit is issued, they will ship the building and place it on the prepared pad then make the final utility connections.



Coulson Park Development: Staff is currently working on the first phase of development at Coulson Park. This work will include the location of two ADA accessible modular concrete restroom structures, a boat ramp, parking, and a picnic area. The State Department of Justice (DOJ) recently approved the project and the consultant has begun design work. It is anticipated that construction will take place spring of 2021.



Rose Park Playground Remodel: This summer as part of the selection process for the new playground equipment at Rose Park, Billings' citizens had a chance to vote on their preferred playground design through an online voting system. There were over 700 votes cast. The winning design is being

implemented in the park. The staff has ordered the equipment and it is anticipated to arrive at the end of December. The installation will occur as weather permits.



Ponderosa Park Playground Before



Ponderosa Park Playground Afterwards

Ponderosa Park Playground Remodel: On July 24th a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of the new playground at Ponderosa Park. Included in the project were play features such as swings, slides, climbing structures, and spinners. Many of the play pieces are inclusive so that children of all abilities can play and socialize side by side with their friends. Included in the improvements is an ADA accessible route from the street to the playground and a shade structure.



Amend Park Synthetic Turf Field: On August 28th the new synthetic turf soccer field at Amend Park was officially opened. A ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorated the event as dignitaries, citizens, and soccer players looked on. Amenities at the park include a 500 seat bleacher and LED lighting that will extend the playing season and number of games played per day. This field will provide a professional quality surface for play.

Dehler Park Maintenance: Dehler Park is nearly 12 years old and to maintain that facility in proper condition, the Parks and Recreation Department has hired a local architectural firm to inspect the buildings and concourse. They have identified the necessary repairs and are working to get bids from qualified contractors to do the work. Once this work is completed, it will extend the life of the stadium complex for many years to come.

Castle Rock Park Master Plan: The Parks and Recreation Department has retained the services of Cushing Terrell of Billings to assist staff in the development of a master plan for Castle Rock Park. The consultant has met with many user groups, stakeholders, and citizens to receive input about what should be included in the master plan. Also, a project website has been created to help keep citizens informed about the process. Go to the Parks and Recreation website at www.billingsparks.org for the latest information and to give your ideas about the plan. Also, future public meetings are posted at the site. On October 11th an open house at the park will be held to show the public the progress made to date and showcase the initial concept that has emerged from the meetings held to date. It is anticipated this project will be finished by the end of the year.

Terry Park Playground Replacement and Picnic Shelter: Terry Park will soon be getting new playground equipment and a picnic shelter. Funding has been appropriated for these amenities and staff is working to provide concepts for Billings' residents to vote for the play equipment they would like to see in the park. The goal is to install these new amenities in the spring of 2021.

High Sierra Park Restroom: A new modular concrete latrine facility will soon be placed at the High Sierra Park near the dog off-leash area. Plans and specifications have been developed and the building has been ordered. The building will be delivered and installed in the first part of November. Sidewalks to the dog off-leash area and ADA accessible parking will also be part of the project and will be constructed this fall weather permitting.

Volunteer and Community Outreach



Arbor Day: This past spring the Parks and Recreation Department postponed the annual Arbor Day Event due to COVID-19. The Arbor Day Committee was determined to hold an Arbor Day event in the fall, not knowing exactly what that might look like. It was decided to move the event from North Park and hold a much smaller, less formal Arbor Day at Centennial Park. The Parks and Recreation Department used this opportunity to rejoice trees in the community and begin planting the new Arboretum at Centennial Park. This year we had around 30 volunteers from

Montana Audubon Center, West End Task Force, Downtown Rotary, and West End Rotary helped with the volunteer projects consisting of tree planting in the dog park area and landscaping and tree planting in the main parking lot located off 32nd St. We held an Arbor Day Ceremony at 11:00, which was open to the public. We were honored to have Mayor Cole speak at the event and help plant the ceremonial Arbor Day Tree. The Parks and Forestry Divisions, and the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator are responsible for coordinating the Arbor Day volunteer projects and Arbor Day Ceremony.

Parkland Gleaning Project: We are wrapping up the final plantings of the Parkland Gleaning Project and are beginning to recruit volunteers and organizations for long term commitments to monitoring and gleaning of fruit trees. We had our first volunteer gleaning at Amend Park in August with 94 lbs. of Apples, plums, and pears collected and donated to Family Services. Along with the HDR Grant, we have budgeted a portion of those funds to create signage that will be installed in the Parks at Parkland Gleaning sites. This will give the public information about the background of the project, other parks locations that have fruit trees available for gleaning, and more ways to get involved with future volunteer opportunities as part of the project.





Amend Park Community

Garden: This year we have filled all of the plots at the Amend Park Community garden. Five of the gardeners from Amend have agreed to volunteer as Leadership Team Members. These members helped with coordinating garden activities, projects, and general oversight of weekly tasks. The Garden also participated in the Harvest Hope Victory Gardens program along with the Songbird and St. Andrews Community gardens. The purpose of the project is for gardeners to plant extra plants in their garden, or provide additional garden plots, dedicated to growing food

that was donated to the food bank and local organizations that are helping community members experiencing food insecurities. The Victory Gardens at Amend are being coordinated by the leadership team. So far this year, the garden has produced 3,370 lbs. of produce and counting!

Ribbon Cuttings:



1. Lillis Park Pickle Ball Courts - September 15th
2. Amend Park Synthetic Turf Field – July 7th
3. Ponderosa Park Playground - July 24th

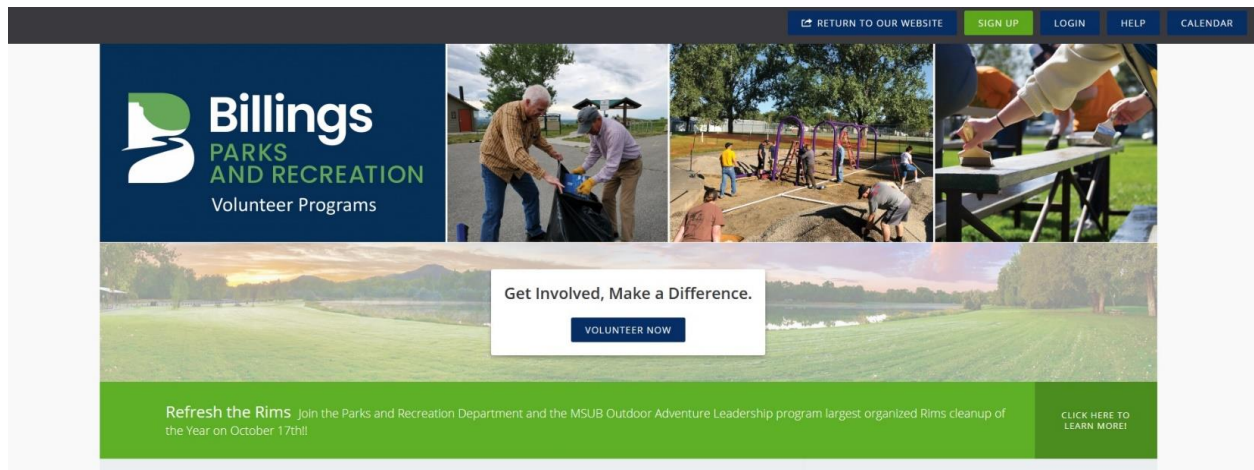
Volunteer Projects: Volunteer projects have picked up significantly since earlier in the summer. We have had several large volunteer projects take place this quarter with a total of 143 Volunteers contributing 603 hours of projects in the parks since the start of July. All volunteers are required to adhere to our approved Phase 2 Volunteer Program guidelines.

First Interstate Bank Volunteer Day: Volunteers from First Interstate Bank held their annual volunteer day this year on September 9th. We hosted two projects, a rims cleanup and a fencing project at Amend Park Community Garden. The Amend Garden Fencing project replaced the rodent fencing with a sturdy metal mesh fabric fencing material that will, last for many years. The previous rodent fencing was made of black plastic that had deteriorated in the sun and become ineffective in stopping small animals from passing through. The volunteers were able to replace over 400 ft. of fencing in a matter of a few hours.

RMC Rims Cleanup: The Rocky Mountain College girls volleyball team helped with a cleanup at the base of the rims located near Stanford Rd. The Team spent the morning hiking around the foothills picking up trash that had come off from the rims above. In around an hour, they had collected eight 55 gallon garbage bags worth of trash and litter from the area.



Refresh the Rims: Refresh the Rims is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th. This annual event is the largest organized Rims Cleanup of the year! The Billings Parks and Recreation Department and the MSU-B Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program lead volunteers across 5 miles of Parkland above and below the rims to clean up litter and debris from one of Billings' defining landmarks and a favorite Park area for residents and visitors of Billings. Volunteers are split into groups to cover specific areas along the rims. Volunteers can sign up at Billingsparks.org



New Volunteer Software: We have completed the implementation and a soft launch of our new volunteer software with galaxy digital. This software will expand our ability to recruit volunteers and will assist in volunteer recruitment, capturing volunteer statistics, engaging community members, scheduling volunteers, and advanced reporting. We are testing the site with our Refresh the Rims Event to get a feel for the system and make any adjustments. The volunteer system comes with a number of automated features that will streamline the administration of volunteers and volunteer events. You can look at our new volunteer software by going to <https://billingsmt.galaxydigital.com/>

Park Maintenance

Seasonal Staff: During the summer, the biggest hurdle the Parks Department faced was staffing levels. We were always 10 to 15 people down from full staff. The worst area was restroom closers. During most of the summer, full-time staff had to fill in due to the shortage. During August and carrying over into September the lack of adequate staff forced Parks to close 8 bathrooms each day at 4:00 pm instead of keeping them open until 9:00 pm. Optimist, Highland, Gorham, Sacajawea, Edgerton, Arrowhead, South, and North were chosen to be closed early, but only if there was not an event in the park that evening. The Seasonal labor shortage also affected our weekend schedule. There were delays in preparing shelters for events and trash service.

Operations: There were a number of pump issues during the summer. Lillis pump was down for 3 weeks at the end of July and into August. The repair parts were back-ordered and slowed the repair. The upper pump at Pioneer was unusable all summer. The line that supplies water to the station from the ditch was compromised. The lower pump station was used to irrigate the park all summer. The repair was made in September and is ready for next year. One of the transfer pumps at Castle Rock Park has a bad bearing and will need to be rebuilt over the winter, the other pump is operational and supplying the ditch water to the park. The ditch water was extremely silty this summer and caused a few issues with our primary filters at a number of locations. Using a large air compressor staff was able to keep the headgates clear. Staff will make some design changes for next year to improve the water flow during high silt times.

Irrigation: Staff started the winterization process early this year. Compressors for rent are scarce so we are down one large compressor, also with the lack of seasonal help, full-time staff will be needed to mulch leaves and do winter prep. Along with all the park restrooms and buildings, staff is responsible for winterizing 114 sites and 230 points of connection.



The irrigation project at North Park is nearly completed. The last thing that needs to be completed is a power line that needs to be bored over to the pump station, and we are waiting on NorthWestern Energy to schedule the project. The system has been running using a temporary tie into city water.

Park Vandalism: Vandalism was an expensive issue this summer. Two of the worst events were at Stewart Park and Yellowstone Kelly's Interruptive site. Graffiti on the rims and trash being tossed from the rims also continues to be a problem.



Turf Management: Staff continued to provide enhanced maintenance at Amend Park to ensure the turf is competition level quality. Additional fertilizer and aerification are required to allow the turf to stand up to all the traffic demands placed on these fields.



Spreading Fertilizer at Amend Park



Solid Tine Aeration at Amend Park

Projects:

Artificial turf field installed at Amend - Staff reinstalled and reworked the sprinklers that had to be moved to allow room for the new artificial turf field. Sod and landscape rock were also placed around the field.

Lillis Park PickleBall Courts – The pickleball courts were completed and the grand opening was held on September 14th.

Before



After



Mountview Cemetery

Operations: Burials increased significantly during the third quarter of 2020 compared to the second. This was mostly a result of families rescheduling cremation burials that were postponed during the early COVID-19 restrictions in the spring. Of the postponed burials, only two remain unscheduled at this point. Two of the cemetery's seasonal staff left early in the season. Despite attempting to hire one replacement employee, the position remained unfilled due to a lack of applications.

With the transition to fall, the maintenance staff has reduced watering. Additionally, the fall herbicide application has started. Cemetery staff is preparing for winter by trimming down the turf around the lot markers for easier identification. The Streets



Cemetery Staff leveling roads in the old section of Mountview

Department hauled in multiple loads of rototilling's to the old sections of the cemetery to complete the internal road system. Cemetery staff worked to prep the site and spread the millings. The delivered material completed about 40% of the desired project. As time and materials allow, Streets will continue to deliver millings to the cemetery in an effort to complete the project.

Equipment:

Through the City's Equipment Replacement Program, the cemetery replaced two Walker mowers. This should have a positive impact on the cemetery's equipment maintenance budget. Both mowers required significant repairs during the last year of their use.

Veterans' Section Damage:

On September 20, 2020, a vehicle crashed into the northern section of Mountview Cemetery off of Central Ave. It destroyed the granite entry sign, a mature crab apple tree, and caused damage to 29 Veterans' headstones and cemetery turf. Cemetery staff conducted preliminary cleanup of the site on the 20th to address safety issues.

Subsequent cleanup involved removing the fragments of the headstone bases from the cement curbing, replacing the damaged turf, and removing existing glass and debris from the site. Cemetery staff also worked with two cemetery volunteers to research Veterans' information to submit applications to the Veterans Administration (VA) for replacement military headstones.

The VA has agreed to provide the replacement headstones at no cost to the cemetery and will seek reimbursement from the driver's insurance if possible. The Yellowstone National Cemetery loaned Mountview Cemetery temporary grave markers to put at the Veterans' graves until replacement headstones are installed. The replacement applications were submitted to the VA on Monday, September 28. This rapid replacement timeline would not be possible without the tremendous volunteer efforts of Faith Barnwell and P.J. Smith who committed significant time to help cemetery staff find all the crucial information needed to complete the applications.



July-Sept Statistics:

	July	August	September	Totals
Full Burials	3	4	4	11
Cremation Burials	10	11	8	29
Infant Burial	0	0	0	0
Total Burials	13	15	12	40
Veterans Grave	0	0	0	0
Immediate Use Sales	0	2	0	2
Future Use Sales	1	1	0	2
Contract for Deed	4	1	0	5
Disinterment Full	0	0	0	0
Disinterment Infant	0	0	0	0
Other (cremation disentangment)	0	0	0	0

Urban Forestry

Forestry remained full staffed throughout the quarter, with two weed abatement seasonal employees and one arborist assistant. Staff pruned 216 trees, removed 41 trees, and watered all newly planted trees and the trees along Montana Ave and Broadway twice each month.

Forestry staff scheduled and managed the tree planting for Arbor Day. Over 30 trees were planted at Centennial Park as part of the Arbor Day celebration.

Forestry staff has been busy with weed abatements. This program runs from June through September. Staff assists Code Enforcement by mowing down overgrown properties that the owner will not comply with Code Officers. This season a total of 104 properties were mowed by Forestry Staff. These properties vary in size from a lot to multiple acres. A total of \$13,227.00 in revenue was generated through his program.

City Arborist Update for July 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned a total of 68 trees
- Pruned 19 trees in Frances (pruning is complete 44 trees pruned total)
- Weeded the tree area behind the playground in Frances
- Removed large dead Silver Maple in Ave. F Triangle
- Removed 5 dead trees in High Sierra dog park, weeded, and mulched around trees
- Removed one Canada red on Montana
- Raised up 26 trees around the police evidence bldg.
- Removed 9+ small cottonwood trees around the police evidence bldg.
- Pruned 4 large ash trees in Rocky Village park
- Watered 27 trees in Sacajawea, 90 in Lillis, 22 on Montana and Broadway

- Cut cottonwood suckers and mowed along the street in Josephine crossing
- Mowed and line trimmed along street and bike path in Descro Strip
- Started pruning in Evergreen park

City Arborist Update for August 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned a total of 111 trees
- Pruned 29 trees at MET Transit in Stewart Park (mostly raising)
- Pruned 29 trees along Parkhill and 3rd Ave. in Pioneer Park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Pruned 28 trees in Evergreen park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Pruned 16 trees around the police evidence bldg. (raising)
- Pruned 6 cottonwoods in Riverfront Park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Removed two dead ash trees in Uinta
- Removed very large branch hung up in cottonwood for the water dept.
- Cut back trees from growing into the street on Bohl Ave.
- Mulched 34 trees in Pioneer Park
- Mulched and watered 46 trees in Descro Strip
- Watered 38 trees on Montana and Broadway
- Watered 88 trees in Lillis Park
- Completed 6 work orders from Shawn in Harvest and Olympic Park removing 4 trees and raising many others above sidewalks.
- Updated inventory in Rocky Village (not done since 2010)
- Removed Bullet Galls off 31 Bur Oaks

City Arborist Update for September 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned 37 trees in Pioneer as part of the 7-year cycle along 3rd ave and along the south side by the football field
(5 were a complete crown clean, 32 raised up)
- Raised 3 trees in Lillis and pruned 1 on Montana Ave.
- Planted 70 trees total
 - 5 in Copper Ridge
 - 46 in Centennial
 - 3 in Lillis
 - 2 in Rose
 - 2 in Sac
 - 1 in Amend garden
 - 1 in Optimist
 - 1 in Terry
 - 1 in Pioneer
 - 1 on Montana
 - 5 in Howard Heights
 - 4 in High Sierra

Council Work Session

3.

Meeting Date: 11/02/2020

TITLE: Project ReCode - Zoning Code Amendment and Zoning Map Update - Session 2

PRESENTED BY: Nicole Cromwell

Department: Planning & Community Services

Division: Planning

RECOMMENDATION

There is no action required by the City Council. This is a second Work Session on the overview of the Zoning Code Amendment and the Zoning Map Update. This session will focus on some of the major improvements contained within the draft code including implementing policy on locations and separations of casinos and bars, new commercial, mixed use and industrial zones and the sign code.

The City Zoning Commission met for a final public hearing on October 14, 2020 and is forwarding its recommendation of approval of the Zoning Code Amendment and the Zoning Map Update to the City Council for a public hearing and 1st reading on November 9, 2020.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The City Council's first Work Session gave a complete overview of the recommended draft code update. Over the past two weeks, the City Council and other interested parties have submitted questions concerning the specific language of the code. This Work Session will first review those questions and answers (Council questions have been provided below) and then focus on several overarching themes and policies of the zoning code amendments including the new approach to zoning district structure especially as it relates to commercial, mixed use and industrial zone districts. Staff will also review the issue of non-reducible separations for casinos and bars, and the new sign code.

Council Questions and Answers:

The Council and others have sent questions over the last 10 days regarding the draft code. Here are those Council questions and answers:

From CM Boyett

Hi Nicole,

Randy Reger asked me to contact you as he believes an agreement was made so time ago which allows him to put signs up to 40 feet. Could you look at the section provided and give me you opinion? I didn't know where to look without asking you.

Answer

Hi CM Boyett,

This was not an agreement per se. It was a code adopted by the City Council in 2005. The existing codes were all reviewed and the best parts of the existing codes continued forward in the new code. The Shiloh Overlay District is not continuing in the new zoning code, but some parts of this code were incorporated across other code sections. These overlay districts are being retired along with the separate sign code for those overlay areas. The new sign code (Section 27-1400), specifies what type of signs are allowed by zoning district including the height, area and illumination of those signs.

The new sign code recognized the need for taller signs within 660 feet of the interstate right of way but not on other local streets. A sign up to 40 feet in height is allowed within 660 feet of the interstate right of way. We also changed the way we will measure sign height. Right now we measure from the base of the sign up to top of the sign – without regard for the adjacent street elevation.

Mr. Reger's property at Shiloh/Hesper/Gabel/Zoo Drive is proposed to be zoned I1 - Light Industrial. The current zoning of the property is Controlled Industrial (CI). These are essentially the same zoning district designation without the Shiloh Overlay. There are many other requirements and allowances in the overlay district that were incorporated across the new zoning code for landscaping, site developments and signs. We are also measuring height differently than current code for signs. We will be measuring the height of signs from the crown of the adjacent road. (Draft Section 27-1404.C) The new zone district allows these types of signs (Draft Section 27-1407.E)

We reserved the maximum 40 foot height for signs within the Interstate Corridor (660 feet either side of the ROW). The Sign Code Working Group believed the 25 foot height – measured in the new way – would be plenty of height for city streets and areas zoned for commercial, industrial and mixed uses.

There is always the option to apply for a height variance for a sign. There will be a few signs on Zoo Drive that exceed the new maximum height. These will likely all fall into the Major Nonconforming Sign category (See Draft Section 27-1403) because they will exceed the new height limit by more than 20%.

As we discussed in the sign code working group, the taller signs are not intended (or very safe) to read from local streets. These taller pole signs within 660 feet of the interstate right of way act more as “locator” signs similar to the balloons that car dealerships put up 50 feet in the air on weekends. Zoo Drive is not a high speed limited access freeway where a locator sign is needed for traffic to make a safe movement to turn, exit or slow down. I hope this explains the proposed new sign code for pole signs.

From CM Neese

Nicole,

Q. It was mentioned that the casino, bar/ increase would allow a 10% expansion but 0% toward the restrictive location. However, is there a limit on how much they can build up? Is the 10% only on the foot print or the gross floor space?

A. This is gross floor area not foot print (Section 27-1503.A)

Q. Chain link : You are correct I saw that in EBURD section only. They may want to change that. Chain link prevents being able to hide which I think would be safer for residents and police.

A. The EBURD code requires some transparency in front yard fences to maintain this good visibility. Where an opaque fence is required (next to a residential use) then a solid fence must go in.

Q. Sign Code. In commercial zones. Can the signs be allowed in the chain link with painted slates? I brought this to your attention about the storage property on the corner of Lake Elmo and Pemberton Ln that has a sign like this.

A. No. The proposed sign code does not allow business signs to be posted on fences. (Section 27-1402.E – Prohibited Locations)

Q. I understand the city attorney indicated the city did not need a full notification of a zone change as is required by state law because much of re-code is a minor change. While I disagree with that premise, the question I had was not in relation to minor changes. My question is in relation to major the adjustments or changes that through this re-code the existing zoning use is being changed from one use to another use without following MCA. State Law is specific on zone changes on what is required. I could not find an exemption for not requiring notification if the city chooses to overhaul of their code. A change of use through zoning is a zone change.

A. The zoning map update is not a zone change as contemplated by both the State Law (MCA 76-2-303-304), and the Local Regulations at BMCC 27-1502. The Zoning Map Update is to place each of the +62K parcels within the city limits in one of the newly created zone districts (as per draft Section 27-300, 27-400, 27-500, 27-600, 27-900). The City/County Board of Planning initiated the Zoning Code overhaul that includes this map update.

As stated at the Work Session and many other public presentations on the zoning map update, zoning district updates were done carefully and based both on current zone districts and actual uses of property whenever possible. The draft side-by-side comparison map was published in May 2019 and we have continually updated the draft map based on errors and corrections sent to us by land owners, neighbors, agents for land owner and by Planning staff. We still have a handful of small corrections for the final map. We have not “up-zoned” undeveloped property, but we have corrected zoning errors – some made back in 1972/1973 when broad brushes were used to zone “over” established uses. The established uses were already part of the neighborhood fabric and provide some essential services where none existed. None of these locations have “conformed” to the inappropriate zone district applied in 1972/1973. They have persisted – and become harder to finance and insure – and remain part of these neighborhoods. There were uses we did not consider for “right zoning” including auto repair or similar uses that are not really a good fit within a neighborhood.

Q. In these situations can we get the city attorney's opinion on notification requirements when the class in the zone is changing from their existing class to another class?
City Attorney is preparing a response.

Q. BTW, on the last map I looked at the parcels that where involved in the county Cherry Creek zone request a couple of weeks ago were zoned as R9600, that would should mean they would be zone N4 county like the county neighbors to the west. Why does the map show them as RR1, that appears to be a zone change that the nearby residents are expecting for years as R9600 or N4 type property development. What is the development difference if it is N4 vs RR1?

A. The Cherry Island LLC parcels (Lot 2) outside the city limits and west of the Cherry Creek MHP are scheduled to become RR1. County parcels that are not subdivided or developed, and they were zoned R-96, we placed these properties within the appropriate RR zone. The N4 zoning was applied to R-96 zoned lots in the County that were subdivided (lots created) based on the R-96 zone. So lots east of Cherry Creek Estates that were subdivided and built on were zoned both N4 and RR1 – based on lot area. N4 is 15,000 square feet minimum up to .99 acres. It is a Large Lot Suburban Neighborhood district. RR1 is a county rural residential zone requiring at least 1 acre lots. The lots could be as large as 2.99 acres. When the Cherry Island LLC property west of the Cherry Creek MHP is proposed for annexation and zoning, it will need to go through the Planned Neighborhood Development (PND) process since it is larger than 3 acres and is not developed. If the owners want to develop a County subdivision of lots less than 1 acre, a zone change would be required to go to the N4 zoning.

Thanks for your help. I'm still going through this and will have a lot more questions.

From CM Purinton:

Q. Nicole, in talking with some EBURD folks, we were wondering if the version online is the latest version which you presented. They thought that there were no changes from current regulations.

A. The EBURD code was updated by putting the sign code regulations into the new sign code section – 27-1400. These sign regulations were not changed in any essential way when we included the EBURD zone districts in the new sign code.

The “Use” section in the current EBURD code was incorporated into the new Use and Use Standards section 27-1000. There are five columns in the Use Table for the EBURD zone districts and the Use Standards for those zone districts were incorporated in to the text of new Section 27-1000.

The other pieces of the EBURD code were consolidated and updated into the new EBURD code section 27-900.

I have included all three code sections with this email. (www.project-recode.com/code-outline)
I have also included the current EBURD code [Section 27-1800](#) .

From CM Ewalt:

Nicole, Here are some of my questions so far:

Q: 1. p. 3 "C" what does except one of every four lots in the development may be located on a shared open space mean?

A: This requirement appears in the draft Code Section 27-303. The current code requires every lot to have physical access and frontage on a public right of way (27-310.a BMCC). The proposed code has a similar requirement but it also will allow courtyard type arrangements of dwelling units. In order to keep the code consistent, this allowance is written so courtyard dwelling arrangements are possible. This is the diagrammatic plan shown as an example for the Mixed Residential Zone -1 (NX1)

Q: 2. p. 4 "G" the city is in the process of moving trash collection to front street of property why require trash to be in rear of property then. Does this tell the owner they have to put their trash receptacle where code wants it?

A: This requirement for storage of trash receptacles is in Code Section 27-303.G. The current code at BMCC 21-210(a) allows trash receptacles to be out at curbside no more than 24 hours in advance of the collection day, and they need to be stored away from the street after collection day. This part of the zoning code relates to the storage of the trash containers and does not dictate where the trash is collected.

Q: 3. p.5 "J" requiring adding "interest" to the building facade goes against personal property rights and affordable housing.

A: This is not a question. This section of 27-303.J was crafted to ensure the standard of the existing neighborhood district. Not every new N district requires some of these elements. For example, N3 does not have these requirements. The other N districts do require some common elements such as doors and windows along the front of the building in the “build-to” area along the street. The requirement is intended to encourage compatibility in design for new structures in existing neighborhoods. Administrative relief can be requested when one of these elements cannot be met.

Q: 4. p.5 "K" What is the width in feet of an arterial street? Why not use property line for set back distances? If structure is 50' from centerline of arterial then no vehicles can park on driveway because they'll extend into the 40' restriction.

A: Arterial streets have variable widths and it is based on when or how the street was designated

as an arterial. In the subdivision regulations, the width of an arterial street could be 100 feet in total width or 130 feet in width (BMCC 23-406(b)). The pavement, sidewalks, gutters are all contained within the right way but there may be additional area that is not yet constructed but still part of the right of way. This would look like it was part of the private property but would actually be part of the city's right of way. The current code requires a minimum front setback to property line **and** a minimum setback to an arterial street centerline of at least 60 feet for commercial property and 80 feet for residential property. (BMCC 27-308, 27-309 and 27-602) The most restrictive requirement governs. This would be how this new reduced arterial setback is measured as well. The new code is intended to bring buildings towards the street in most cases and parking would be on the side of the buildings or in the rear.

Q: 5. p.8 What is the definition of a "fee simple configuration" not in the definition section of 27-1800.

A: We may have to add this to our definitions. A "fee-simple configuration" is referring to unit ownership versus fee simple ownership of property. Fee simple means how an owner owns property. Fee simple is how many people own their homes or businesses. A "unit ownership" can be a condominium or a townhome. The owner owns the unit (and the ground below for a townhome), but owns the ground around the dwellings in common with other owners.

Q: 6. p.8 "b" one entrance is permitted per street facade/what if a stacked unit residence has a entrance for main level and a second entrance to enclosed stair on second level?

A: Designers could ask for an administrative adjustment or they could build a side entrance (door faces the side property line and not the front) to the enclosed stairwell.

Q: 7. section 27-305 N2 Why is it permissible to have front building width of 80' for single residence, but only 60' for a front building width for a duplex?

A: The code requirement was based on the majority character of the existing Mid-Century neighborhoods in Billings and on the new Lot Width requirement for N2. The end-to-end duplex needs less building width on the street frontage than a side-by-side duplex.

Q: What is the difference between side-by-side and end-to-end units?

A: The main difference is the orientation of the duplex structure. The end-to-end units are oriented to the side or on separate street frontages (corner lot duplex). The side-by-side duplex is oriented toward the street with a "U" shape space between the units.

Q: Why only one entrance permitted off street?

A: The idea is to help the two-unit buildings blend in with the single family dwellings in the area.

Q: This N2 district was suppose to blend with existing construction in the area, but added restrictions mentioned above will not blend in.

A: This is not a question.

Q: Why is only 35% facade coverage for garages added to more restrictions for this area?

A: Most of the N2 zone district dwellings do meet this requirement. We only measure the width of the garage door – not the width of the interior space devoted to storage for cars or personal property.

Q: The only positive change to a property is the slight increase in total lot coverage, (I might be wrong but I think it went from 36% to 40%)

A: Most residential zone districts have 30% maximum lot coverage – exceptions are Residential 6,000 and Residential 8,000 with 40% lot coverage. The multi-family zone districts have higher lot coverage allowances and these will continue.

Q: 8. p. 16 "D-3" last line reads (comprised of multiple units, shall total the minimum regulations) This may have read (comprised of multiple units, shall meet the total regulations) if this a grammatical error then "D-3" on page needs correcting also.

A: I will need to look closely at the code language. It appears to have a grammatical disagreement. Both Code Section 27-307.D.3 and Section 27-308.D.3. This applies only to

multiple side-by-side dwellings – townhomes. The idea is that each dwelling unit would meet the minimum regulations that apply to any dwelling in this Mixed Residential zone district (NX1, NX2 & NX3). I will apprise the Council of a grammatical change.

Q: 9. p. 19 "D-5" does this mean NX3 does not need open space?

A: This was an oversight in the drafting. Code Section 27-308.D.5 should include both zone districts NX2 and NX3.

?More to come later. Thanks

Frank

Commercial and Industrial Zone Districts

The draft zoning code was built using a structure that is modified from its current approach that is known as "Euclidean" or standard zoning. Euclidean does not refer to math (although the code structure is similar to a pyramid) but to a town in Ohio - the Village of Euclid. This town and its 1924 zoning code was the landmark precedent case before the Supreme Court challenging the ability of local governments to create and enforce zoning codes. The Supreme Court upheld the authority of the Village of Euclid, OH (*Village of Euclid, Ohio v. Ambler Realty Co.*, 272 U.S. 365 (1926)). Since this landmark case decision, cities, towns and counties throughout the US have implemented zoning based on the structure of this first zoning code: Uses in a low intensity districts are included in higher intensity districts along with any new uses allowed in the higher districts. So the structure is similar to an inverted pyramid. For example, all uses allowed in the Residential Professional zone (RP) district are also allowed in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zone district along with additional uses. The first zoning code for Billings was adopted on July 15, 1930 and had five zone districts.

The primary difference between any of our current commercial zone districts is the added uses allowed in the higher district compared to the next lowest district. The proposed zone district structure is intended to separate districts into similar "classes" of use. In Section 27-1000 this is introduced in the opening paragraphs:

Primary Use Classification General Descriptions

27-1001.C To organize the uses in the Table 27-1000.1, Primary Use Table, land uses and activities are classified into general "use categories" that are based on common functional, product, or physical characteristics, such as the type and amount of activity, the type of customers or residents, how goods or services are sold or delivered, and site conditions. The use categories in Table 27-1000.1 are:

- 1. Residential*
- 2. Public, Civic, and Institutional*
- 3. Commercial*
- 4. Industrial, Wholesale, and Storage*
- 5. Transportation, Utilities, and Communications*
- 6. Agriculture*

This new system does not "build pyramids of uses" across all use categories especially across classes of zone districts. A good example of this structure change is in how we assembled uses for the new Light Industrial (I1) zone district. The "Industrial, Wholesale and Storage" category includes uses that fit within this category and excludes uses that would be incompatible - e.g. multi-family residential apartments, general lodging, hospitals, professional office buildings or parks. These uses are allowed within the general class of "Commercial" but not an allowed primary use within the Industrial districts. The current zoning code structure builds in a level of unpredictability that sometimes results in chaotic development patterns and conflict between land owners, developers and residents. The 2016 Growth Policy and the discussions we had

across the community urged us to bring clarity and predictability to the new code. This new structure and the use table we developed provided better predictability based on the new zoning district designations.

While updating the Zoning Map from the existing Controlled Industrial (CI) zone designation to the new Light Industrial (I1) zone designation we decided the default would be to the new I1 whenever possible. The new I1 zone district is not appropriate in every case. Planning staff re-checked the draft Zoning Map update in the past two weeks to ensure we had the correct zone designation for the current CI zone districts. We have updated several areas currently coded as I1 to the new Heavy Commercial (CX) zone district based on the predominate uses in the area including hotels, recreation, medical facilities and professional offices. These final zoning map updates will be presented at the November 9, 2020 public hearing.

Bars, Casinos and Non-reducible Separation Distances

Since 2006, the City Council and several neighborhoods have expressed concern with the expansion and re-location of casinos and bars in the community. The current code allows the City Council to grant a waiver to the required 600-foot separation distance to parks with playgrounds, schools and churches, and the distance is measured property line to property line. There is no separation requirement to residential neighborhoods and this has caused a decrease in the safety and livability of many neighborhoods that are close to existing locations. The City Council asked the Project ReCode Steering Committee and the Working Groups to specifically look at crafting a regulation to address these concerns.

The proposed regulation will require a non-reducible separation of 600 feet from casinos with 10 or more gambling machines (or tables) and churches, schools and parks with playgrounds. The new way this separation is measured is from the building or occupied space of the casino to the property line of the protected use. The proposed regulation also adds a new non-reducible separation distance of 350 feet to a residential neighborhood. This will be measured in the same way as the 600-foot separation requirement. Bars will be defined as a location that has more alcohol sales than food sales. Bars will also be required to maintain a non-reducible separation distance of 600 feet from a park with a playground, a school or church and a non-reducible separation of 150 feet to a residential neighborhood. The same measurement method applies to all of these new separation requirements.

The proposed amendments also includes zone districts where these separation distances will not apply for casinos or bars. For the new casino separations, this includes the Central Business District (CBD) that is already exempt from separation requirements, the East Billings Urban Renewal Districts (EBURD), and the new Light Industrial (I1) zone district. For bars, the exemption from separation distances will apply in the CBD, EBURD, I1 and Downtown Support (DX) districts. A restaurant with a bar will not be subject to these separation distances if the location sells more food than alcohol. Bars and casinos will also be subject to special review approval even if they meet the separation requirements.

These changes will result in many nonconforming locations for existing bars and casinos. These locations can continue in their current locations but if the use were changed to a conforming use - such as a restaurant with a bar and with fewer than 10 gambling machines, then just a bar or casino could not be brought back at a later date. Remodeling and normal property maintenance and updating can occur as long as it does not increase the nonconformity of the location. If the location were to be destroyed by any means that results in more than 50 percent of the replacement cost it cannot be re-established or rebuilt except in conformity with the new code.

Sign Code:

Two concerns have been received from property owners on the proposed sign code. These concerns are in regards to sign height and operational restrictions of Electronic Message Display (EMD) signs. The City currently supports seven different and distinct sign codes. The Sign Code Working Group consolidated all seven sign codes and took the best features of each code to use in the proposed new sign code. There are several parts of the existing sign codes that are not carrying forward into the new sign code including some site specific height allowances in the South Shiloh Corridor and the wide-open animation allowances for EMD signs.

Sign height has a direct effect on legibility of signs and safe readability of signs by travelers on adjacent streets. The current sign code height limit is 30 feet for freestanding signs in many commercial zone districts. The working group agreed after many hours of discussion and examples, the current 30-foot height limit was 5 feet too tall to ensure legibility of a pole sign. The proposed height limit for pole signs in most areas is 25 feet as measured from the crown of the adjacent road. Some of the seven sign codes allow signs taller than 30 feet in specific locations - in a certain zone district and within the interstate corridor for example. Taller signs in general are used in locations where information is conveyed to a nearby high-speed limited access interstate and travelers need to recognize where they need to prepare to exit the interstate. These are commonly known as "locator" signs. In the correct locations and height they can be very effective. More than 660 feet from the interstate, locator signs become less effective and more distracting to local traffic. The new sign code will not allow a sign taller than 25 feet except within 660 feet of the interstate right of way. The South Shiloh Corridor district currently allows 40-foot tall pole signs along the Zoo Drive frontage from the interchange all the way to the Shiloh Road intersection. Allowing these taller signs more than 660 feet from the interstate was not considered by the Sign Code Working Group or by the City Zoning Commission. A taller sign along the Zoo Drive street frontage west of the Gabel Rd intersection will not be visible from the interstate and will not act as a "locator" sign.

The current sign code for EMD signs allows animation on these signs in all districts where they are located. The exception to this allowance is for billboard signs with an EMD sign face. These are restricted to a "static" display with a minimum six seconds between message changes. There are some operational restrictions for animations such as no flashing, no traveling lights, no video (faster than 20 frames per second), and no scintillating lights.

Prior to 2008, EMD signs were not clearly allowed within the code. An ad hoc committee was formed by the City Council and staffed by the Planning Division to investigate and propose regulations for this new technology. These are the current requirements in the code. The enforceability of the current operational restrictions is nearly impossible since the operation of the sign is via a computer on site. Any person within the business can program the sign to operate in any way almost instantly - either in compliance or in noncompliance with the sign code. A report to Code Enforcement of a flashing EMD sign can be made on Sunday afternoon, and by the following day, the sign is back to compliant operation when the Code Enforcement Officer goes to inspect the sign. There is no evidence the sign was ever used inappropriately or in noncompliance with the code. The working group considered this information along with the potential for future technology to replace some of these current EMD signs. The working group and City Zoning Commission are recommending that most EMD signs become "static" message signs with changes allowed every six seconds. Animated EMD signs would be restricted to two zone districts - Central Business District (CBD), Downtown Support (DX).

The six second message display time for static EMD signs is an effective length of time for

moving traffic to receive the sign information without distracting drivers. This allows signs to be legible from the adjacent street. Animation or scrolling messages across the sign face tends to pull driver's attention away from the road. Some of the multi-lane arterial streets in Billings demand all of the driver's attention due to traffic volume and speed. The requirement for static display on EMD signs will also increase the city's ability to enforce a uniform code across most commercial zone districts. EMD signs located near controlled intersections will still retain the same ability the signs have now to convey multiple messages to traffic waiting at the intersection. Traffic traveling at speed through these intersections would not receive more than one single message on an EMD under the current or proposed regulations.

STAKEHOLDERS

The City Zoning Commission has held six topic focused public hearings on the draft code and zoning map update in the past four months. The Commission held a final hearing on October 14, 2020, and reviewed the code one last time before making a recommendation to the City Council. The Zoning Commission is forwarding a recommendation of approval to the City Council.

The public hearings were conducted in multiple formats to allow for maximum participation. The formats included in person attendance at the Senior Center, on line via live feed on Facebook and on the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Community 7 TV live broadcast the hearings on their Facebook page and on the Planning & Community Services Facebook page. We had a public comment call in phone for each hearing. The first three sessions in July had 32 people attend in person. The live broadcasts were viewed by over 170 people on July 21, and over 130 viewers for the July 22 and the July 23 hearings. The three hearings in September had fewer persons attend in person and lower numbers for viewers on the live broadcasts. All of the hearings are recorded and still available for viewing on the Community 7 TV and Planning Facebook pages.

Over the course of the 3 years of Project ReCode, the Steering Committee and Working Groups held over 100 advertised public meetings to review, critique and re-draft the new code sections. The consultant team held meetings in June and July of 2018 to gather public input on zoning and land use issues from more than a dozen community groups, elected and appointed officials, and neighborhoods. In October 2018, the consultant team held three days of open house meetings on the findings of the Code Assessment, a foundation document for the new code.

As the Working Groups completed their work at the end of 2019, many members of the development community began to "test" the proposed new code to learn the specifics and to see how the new code would serve their clients and property owners. The land development professionals were anticipating the code to be adopted in early 2020. Then the global COVID-19 pandemic took over. The draft was completed and uploaded to the Project ReCode website - <https://project-recode.com/code-outline> - in March and April of 2020. Developers and community builders are eagerly awaiting these new and improved zoning tools. We have several developers who could not wait out the longer process of adoption and have moved forward with subdivisions, annexations, zone changes and variances. These developers may switch gears when the new code is adopted.

In addition to the 100+ public meetings of the Working Groups, Planning staff has made over 20 public presentations just in the last 18 months (including some online during the pandemic) on Project ReCode. Those presentations were made to the following groups - some more than

once:

- Property Managers & Landlords
- Berkshire Hathaway Realtors
- Home Builders Association
- Billings Area Realtors
- Assistant Secretary of HUD
- Community Development Board
- Neighborhood Task Forces (Rimrock, West End, Heights & Central Terry)
- Adjacent Neighborhood Committee
- League of Women Voters - Local Government Sessions
- Downtown Rotary
- Yellowstone Bank
- Restaurant and Tavern Owners

These groups of citizens and professionals are regularly engaged in land use planning, business and financial decisions based on land use rules and regulations. Planning staff presentations were intended to bring the information to these engaged groups.

Since the first Council Work Session on October 19, 2020, Planning staff has been receiving requests for information and clarifications of the proposed code from property owners, developers, Realtors and the general public. These have come in the form of phone calls, visits to the Planning Office and written email exchanges. Similar to the Council members Questions and Answers in the Background section above, below are some of the the written emailed questions and answers staff has received from the public:

From Pam Ellis:

Q: I am not able to find the maps on line for our home on Cherry Creek. We live at 2000 Outlook Drive 59105. What will be the new zoning for the proposed city/county area at Cherry Creek that the county turned down (a zone change) and the city allowed withdrawal?

Thank you,
Pam Ellis

Answer:

Hello Pam,

I looked at the final maps and it appears the update for the city piece of the Cherry Island property did not update correctly. It should be a P1 (Public 1) zone, but it appears it was updated to N2 (Mid-Century Neighborhood). The two zone district colors are very similar. The portions of the Cherry Island property outside the city limits are updating to RR1 or Rural Residential 1 (1 acre minimum) I am making a note of this correction for the city piece for the final map update. As discussed with Council at the Work Session on Monday night, some final map adjustments or corrections are being addressed. Your property outside the city limits is updating to the new County RR1 – Rural Residential zone. The pdf (final maps) are on the page link below. They are lower down on the page on the right. These are each large files but the map is broken into 6 sections. I believe the area around Cherry Creek you will find on the North East Map Section. The legend is a separate document also on the same page.

<https://project-recode.com/education-outreach> The code sections are also on-line at <https://project-recode.com/code-outline>

From Pam Ellis

Q: Thanks Nicole. So I should conclude for Cherry Creek that P1 (SECTION 27-501 PUBLIC DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS Public districts are intended to identify and allow for the establishment of public, quasi-public, and civic uses in the community. A. P1: PARKS AND

OPEN SPACE The P1 district is intended to protect and preserve open spaces that are held in either public or private ownership. P1 districts may include parks, open spaces, trails, wetlands, floodplains, environmentally sensitive areas, and unique habitats and landscapes. To preserve access to clean air, pure water, natural recreation areas, and scenic natural beauty, the subdivision and development of land is restricted in P1 districts.) for the city section. And single family homes for the county section. If this was annexed into the city, would it most likely annex as N3: SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL The N3 district is intended for residential neighborhoods primarily with single-family homes. Characteristics include wide lots and attached garages typically located on the front building façade, often greater than 35% of the façade. Basic setback and height parameters apply.). I feel like I understand things when you're presenting, but it is a big big project and I get a bit overwhelmed.

Pam

Answer:

Hi Pam, Yes if the county section of Lot 2 were annexed under the new code provisions, it could be N3 (1/2 anyway) but we would require the lot go through a Planned Neighborhood Development (PND) zone change. This is because the lot is larger than 3 acres and under the new code, property larger than 3 acres that is not developed and wants to develop within the city limits has to have a better development plan than just one type housing choice or lot choice.

This new zoning tool is in draft Section 27-800 (attached). A PND can be mix of Neighborhood zone districts (N1 to N3) or what we are calling a Neighborhood PND. This would be an appropriate approach for this lot. Under the proposed PND section, up to 50% of the area could be N3 zoning. The remaining 50% would have to be other types of lots or housing choices. A site plan is part of this zone change approval process. This is a brand new type of development process and it would not be done as a County zone change. It would have to be done as a city zone change and concurrent annexation.

I hope this helps. - Nicole

Phone Inquiry from Lisa Gilbertson of Western Security Bank on the new Sign Code and zone districts for bank locations. Ms. Gilbertson served on the EMD Ad Hoc Committee in 2007/2008 and help craft the current sign code on EMD signs:

Answer:

Hi Lisa,

Attached is the draft sign code update – new Section 27-1400. As you noted some districts that now allow an EMD may not have that allowance under the new code. If you find we have made an error in the zone district for a Western Security location – please let me know asap so I can add that to the list of final map corrections before it is adopted. The zoning for the banks (as currently drafted) are:

Wicks & Main – Corridor Mixed Use 1(CMU1)

495 Main St – CMU1

2812 1st Ave N – Central Business District (CBD)

2401 Grand – Neighborhood Office (NO) – as we discussed this is probably not the right zone for this parcel – a CMU1 would match the other 3 corners

2675 King Ave W – Corridor Mixed Use 2 (CMU2)

2845 Old Hardin Rd – CMU1

Response from Lisa Gilbertson:

Good morning Nicole,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the proposed sign code yesterday. I have reviewed it and have one immediate concern about using our current Electronic Boards in a compliant manner. Page 23 C. Electronic Message Display (EMD) Signs 5. Static Display EMD (c) Each static

message on the sign shall be displayed for a minimum of six seconds in duration. While WSB supports and currently uses a static display strategy, to hold a screen in place for 6 seconds assumes that a message in it's entirety can be communicated on one single screen. Not all EMD signs are created equal. Larger EMD's like have been put up on the east end of King Avenue have large displays areas that mimic a billboard and allow for many words to be used on one screen. Altana FCU has a board that is square in shape and allows for several lines of text. Unfortunately, the dimensions and resolution of our boards do not allow enough words on a screen at a time to communicate an entire message. See the example below. It's purpose is to communicate to the community that our lobbies are restricted due to COVID-19. As you can see, it takes 3 screens to fully communicate this one sentence.

If I were to hold each screen for 6 seconds, the communication would be left either incomplete OR people will be slowing down in an attempt to see the rest of the message. This is a problem during non-COVID times but becomes a heightened issue during this pandemic. At a time when our lobbies are restricted, we are using our boards to communicate important and essential information to customers including; drive up hours, how to enroll in online banking when the lobby is restricted, how to make an appointment, etc. None of this will be possible if each screen that makes up a message must remain static for at least 6 seconds.

I can provide a number of examples. However, I offer just this addition illustration. Every year, WSB awards \$20,000.00 and a \$25,000 media package to 4 local charities. The example below is one way we communicate the application deadline to any and all charities so that they are aware that it is time to submit their application. The duration of this messaig is currently a 9 seconds. It moves fluidly enough for the viewer to read, but not so slow as to cause the viewer to pause or slow down to recieve the message. This 9 second message, under the proposed code would become a 24 second message. Viewers, will not receive the full communication without slowing down or stopping to do so. Given that our boards can only display a few characters per screen, we will not be able to effectively communicate this important message under the current guidelines.

I am requesting that the sign code committee reevaluate the requirement that each screen remain static for a minimum of 6 seconds. For boards like ours, this requirement will create undo hardship and leave our boards close to useless.

Thank you for any consideration you might give our request.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gilbertson

Senior Vice President, Director of Marketing

2812 1st Avenue North, Suite 324

Billings, MT 59101

406.371.8208

From Steve Zeiler via the Project ReCode webpage for more information:

Answer:

Hello Mr. Zeiler,

Thank you for reaching out on the proposed new zone districts. I believe I spoke with the agent for your property (Chuck Platt) on Mullowney Lane and South Frontage Rd. The property is currently zoned as Highway Commercial (HC). The proposed zoning is Corridor Mixed Use 2 (CMU2) for the smaller parcel with frontage on Mullowney Lane and the remaining acreage is proposed to be zoned Heavy Commercial (CX). I have attached the Commercial and Mixed Use zone district draft code section along with the draft Table of Uses and Use Standards. These start with "BIL". These are still draft regulations. The Heavy Commercial (CX) zone is similar to both the Highway Commercial zone and the Controlled Industrial zone. The new CX district is

not intended for any type of residential uses. The CMU2 zone district is intended to help build new commercial or mixed use properties along the transportation corridors in Billings. The CMU2 does allow residential uses if they are vertically mixed within the same structure as a commercial space on the ground floor. There is a proposed limit of 8 dwelling units per structure in the CMU zone districts. The CMU zone would not allow stand-alone residential dwellings or structures – the use has to be within a mixed use structure. The Mixed Residential (NX) zone districts do allow different configurations of multi-family dwellings on property. These include 1 to 4 unit buildings in the NX1 (Mixed Residential 1), 2 to 8 unit buildings in NX2 and 5 +unit buildings in the NX3 zone districts. If the intent for your property is to sell to a multi-family developer (not a mixed use developer) then one of the NX zone districts would be appropriate for the property. You may also want to consider updating the zoning to include two or more zone districts that can be described as applying to certain lots (Lot 1 or Lot 2 of Block 1 Zeiler Subdivision) or to a certain described area of the lots (easterly 500 feet of Lot 1 as an example). We can update the zone map based on your request. I have included the existing code for HC zones. These files start with “Sec”. The form of our existing code is a “layer cake” – in other words as the districts progress all uses in the “lower” district are included in the “higher” districts along with additional uses for that layer. In order to make our code more predictable, the draft code assigns uses in each zone district that better meet those district descriptions and are essentially unique to that zone district. This means the allowance for single family, two-family and multi-family uses will not necessarily be allowed in all commercial zone districts. I hope this answers your questions and please reach out to me if you have more questions on the draft code or on the zoning designation for the property.

ALTERNATIVES

The next meeting planned for this item where formal action may occur is the City Council first reading and public hearing scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020.

FISCAL EFFECTS

The Planning Division budget should not be further effected by this project after it completes expending its approved budget for this project in the next few months. The project is near completion and ready for the adoption process.

Council Work Session

4.

Meeting Date: 11/02/2020

TITLE: Economic Development Strategy Partner Update

PRESENTED BY: Chris Kukulski, City Administrator

Department: City Hall Administration

RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation -

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

Big Sky Economic Development will give a presentation during the Work Session.

STAKEHOLDERS

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Not applicable.

Attachments

Economic Development Strategy Partner Update

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PARTNER UPDATE

- Downtown Redevelopment is an Essential Element of our Economic Growth, Recovery, and Regional Competitiveness
- Plans and Strategies that Guide our Downtown Redevelopment
 - Downtown Alliance Strategic Plan
 - OBSD Plan
 - Downtown Housing Study
 - YC Economic Response and Recovery Plan
- Update on Actions Related to Our Core/Common Strategies

CORE PLAN GOAL THEMES: Attract tomorrow's workforce, develop our micro-urban landscape that boasts an attractive lifestyle, build off community amenities and civic infrastructure to support a range of housing and more mixed-use development in the downtown core, establish Billings as a dominant destination in the mountain region, grow the tax base, create new jobs that grow the regional economy with an emphasis on leaning into healthcare sector as a platform for economic recovery and growth.

CATALYST PROJECTS	ACTIVITY	NEXT STEPS
Lifestyle District Key Elements: Housing, public market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-way street conversion (done spring of 2021) • Facilitated conversation between developers and Erin McCrady in exploration of long-term alternative financing options • Development of draft RFP for the Yesteryears building • Supported Russ Fagg on additional housing analysis • Facilitated conversations between the Housing Authority and Private Developers • Continued conversations with local owners about the ability to add housing/mixed use • Enhanced pedestrian experience through alleyway development and lighting • Elk River Tribal Center support that enhances our community identify and cultural assets • Russ Fagg's housing project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the Yesteryears RFP draft and reach out to local realtors for input (target final for December) • Continue conversations with local developers on various housing projects in planning and underway • Continue Founder's district conversation and process
Civic/Wellness District Key Elements: New Citylocation, expanded Y,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued conversations with the YMCA • Downtown traffic study completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review options for properties within the Founder's District: • Finalize project recode

<p>development of the four corners at 6th and 27th, senior living</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the Founder's District process • Property use/ownership changes underway (St. Johns now own the Gainan's building, HUB relocation, US Bank drive through for sale) • Conversations with Albertson's about future of property • City pursuing new, consolidated space • Project re-code includes greater consideration of land use • 5th avenue corridor study extended to include the YMCA and the founder's district 	
<p>Education/Innovation District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Bio Science Alliance on the Center for Translational medicine (Federal EDA Grant) • Neuro-diversity center, expanding mental health through telehealth (MSUB project working on funding) • Rock 31 work with research and development at Billings Clinic to explore spin off work for commercialization • Economic recovery plan encourages building off our position as a regional center for healthcare as an opportunity for economic growth/diversification, work is underway with the Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compete federal EDA grant application Facilitate more conversations with the healthcare industry about growth in the healthcare field to support recovery
<p>Entertainment District</p> <p><i>Key Elements:</i> Convention center, additional hotel rooms downtown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected with developers interested in exploring a convention center • Additional conversation with local hoteliers about what they see as supportive vs. competitive • Alberta Bair Theater remodel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to see this as a critical way to support our hospitality industry, and an area we will lean into as convention recovers