

Missoula City/County Elected Officials Policy Meeting

February 15, 2012

10:05 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Council Chambers, 140 W Pine

Present: Denise Alexander, Mike Barton, Bruce Bender, Dale Bickell, Bill Carey, Ed Childers, Caitlin Copple, Ann Cundy, Jean Curtiss, Christine Dascentzo, Lori Davidson, John Engen, Shantelle Gaynor, Dick Haines, Doug Harby, Jean Harte, Nancy Harte, Adam Hertz, Anne Hughes, Bob Jaffe, Pat Keiley, Steve King, Michele Landquist, Steve Mauer, Mary McCrea, James McCubbin, Laval Means, Ginny Merriam, Pat O'Herron, Nancy Rittel, Kevin Slovarp, Dave Strohmaier, Keila Szpaller, Alex Taft, Jason Wiener, Jon Wilkins, Cynthia Wolken, Cindy Wulfekuhle, and Deni Forestek

Councilman Bob Jaffe and Commissioner Chair Bill Carey called the Missoula City/County Elected Officials Policy Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

1. Introductions

2. Approval of [October 26, 2011](#) minutes – approved as presented

3. Public Comment - None

4. Discussion on amending the Interlocal Agreement

Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement](#) (Mayor John Engen) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

- Resolution to dissolve the Office of Planning and Grants. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**
- Outline new process for considering OPG interlocal agreement. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler, Caitlin Copple, Jon Wilkins, Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 02/13/12) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Chair Jaffe reported that there were two competing referrals before the Mayor withdrew his referral and sent an update to his referral that brought the two referrals closer. The City Council agreed without objection to proceed with the Mayor's updated referral.

Mayor Engen read the updated [referral memorandum](#) that he sent to Council, Commissioners and some staff. He felt the need to continue marching forward and making changes to the interlocal agreement. His referral included a timeline with meetings of elected officials and key staff on February 23, 2012 with a meeting to establish a working group; the weekly meetings of the working group would continue until the group reports to another meeting of City/County Elected Officials on March 21, 2012. Although he felt that this was an ambitious timeline, Mayor Engen felt it was necessary in order to be able to budget effectively and meet the changes to the interlocal agreement.

Feedback from the City/County Elected Officials:

- Mr. Jaffe felt the Mayor's updated referral was more in line with the City Council referral; it had been tightened up into something more specific.
- Jason Wiener was pleased to proceed; however, he would like to have more detail to what was being built by this working group and a clear report before he approved anything.
- Alex Taft felt it was a good approach and a nice balance.
- Jon Wilkins was in total agreement, and would like to be part of the working group.
- Jean Curtiss mentioned that these meetings have been scheduled for Wednesdays, when the Commission has administrative duties. Mr. Bender planned to schedule these meetings

for later in the afternoon to not interfere with the Commission or City Council duties on Wednesdays.

Jason Wiener moved that they proceed with the working groups in conjunction with the Mayor's referral memo without objection.

Commissioner Carey felt that although this working group referral was not the County's idea, he wanted to stay informed; however, he did not want to interfere in the City's business. Mr. Jaffe felt that the working group was both a City and County obligation. Mayor Engen hoped that this would help continue the strong relationship of the City and County elected officials, perhaps strengthen the relationship.

Mr. Jaffe asked for ideas from the City and County about how to proceed from this point:

- Ed Childers suggested Kelly Rosenleaf as a resource since she had been a part of the interlocal agreement in the beginning. He had discussed ideas with Nick Kaufman and suggested Mr. Kaufman be invited to participate.
- Mr. Wiener would like the differences in the public needs for services to be taken into consideration; he wanted to make sure that the degree of customer service that OPG gives now would not be harmed.
- Mr. Wilkins would like to see the permit process speeded up.
- Ms. Copple cautioned the group to make sure they were not creating new problems. She was also concerned with grants for CBOs remaining competitive.
- Mr. Hertz would like to make sure that the cultural issues noted by Mr. Barton take a part in this process.
- Mr. Jaffe observed that all the services offered at the Office of Planning and Grants were interwoven and wanted to make sure the working group accomplished their goal without harming other parts of the office. He cautioned that those who uphold the rules and regulations not be hindered.
- Commissioner Curtiss was proud of the City-County relationship; however, if the City does go forward, the County will respond. She agreed with Mr. Jaffe that the staff was hired to uphold those rules and regulations that the Council and the Commissioners create.
- Mr. Strohmaier felt that efficient delivery of excellent services was the goal and the working group needed to keep the staff and the union in mind. In his experience, sometimes what sounded a good way to increase efficiency does not work.

Mayor Engen appreciated the concerns expressed. He noted that the term efficiency was used often; he did not feel efficiency was as important as effectiveness.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deni Forestek

Recording Secretary

Office of Planning and Grants

(These minutes have been summarized. To listen to the meeting in its entirety, [click this link.](#))