

COMMENTS FOR COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2020

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

I request a fairer process for citizens comments at commission meetings. The current format is not conducive to public input. The public currently have no recourse to respond back to the commissioners to correct the record or to refute their lies.

The commissioners misrepresent and/or misquote public comments when responding to them, as Commissioners Houck and Bronson did to me at the last city commission meeting. Sometimes they outright lie, as Commissioner Houck does quite frequently when responding in these meetings.

In the last commission meeting, she lied when she said it had been “two years or longer that I haven’t been part of them (meaning the NHA organization).” I found her name listed as board member in May 2018. So that’s not more than two years from December 2019. She lied about labor sector statistics, “If anybody understands some of the economic base in our community, it is based on tourism. In fact, when you get at the higher level of the state, there’s an argument who brings more money to our community in Great Falls, whether that is tourism or agriculture.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics says otherwise.

She also alluded that I said she was still with the NHA organization, which I did not say.

The constant misrepresentations, reframing comments, lying, talking down to citizens and belittling their concerns as not legitimate by calling those concerns conspiracy theories or claiming they are ignorant and fear-based—this is why many citizens have given up on coming before this body and speaking.

Why does the commission attempt to denigrate and shame members of the public who speak their genuine concerns and well-researched comments?

Last year, Commissioner Houck has accused me of attention-seeking. It’s inexcusable for a member of the city commission to try to dissuade or intimidate a public commenter in this manner.

Also at the last meeting, Commissioner Bronson responded to my comments with a sweeping generalization that southern Republicans love heritage areas. He also mentioned Socialism. Interesting, considering I never mentioned Republicans, Democrats or Socialists in my comments.

Perhaps Bronson and Houck were projecting what they actually appear to use in place of reasoning—groupthink.

This commission was elected to represent the interests of the people of Great Falls—not just the interests of your friends, acquaintances, organizations you have ties with, whether current or former, or special interests. It's been a long time since this commission acted as representative government. Let's see that happen in the new year.

## MINUTES

I want the record to reflect that my question about Resolution 10326 that was never answered. The resolution states:

***WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined that Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, Inc., has the potential to meet these goals, which are consistent with the City Commission's Vision and Goals;***

**It says right there in the resolution that the city commission determined heritage area corporation has the potential to meet these goals.....Therefore, my question—when did you determine that, was never answered.** It had to be prior to that commission meeting. That's my point. How can you put in a resolution that the city commission has determined something prior and then say you've not met about it. You included a statement in the resolution that could not be arrived at without meeting and agreement. It's only logical.

**So again I ask, when did this commission discuss this resolution prior to the meeting? Or did just one commissioner, Bronson, make the determination that the heritage area corporation has the potential to meet goals?**

And no, I'm not going to meet with any commission member individually, as suggested to me, to discuss this.

The answer to my question needs to be on the record, now, at this meeting.

Also, to correct the record, I DID NOT say that Commissioner Houck is still on the board of the Heritage Area corporation. She was listed on the corporation from its inception into 2018. Therefore, she lied when she stated that "it's been almost two years or longer that I haven't been part of them."

In addition, I want to not that I DID NOT bring ANY political party in my discussion of the potential grant to the National Heritage Area corporation. Any mention of political parties in the minutes are the ignorant rantings of former Commissioner Bronson.

**Also the minutes and the agenda of the prior meeting do not contain the MOU mentioned in regards to the Resolution 10326. Where is the MOU? That should be part of the public record.**