

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS**  
**March 6, 2007**

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Dona Stebbins, Sandy Hinz, Diane Jovick-Kuntz and John Rosenbaum. Commissioner Beecher was excused. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Planning, Library, Public Works, Fiscal Services, Interim Police Chief, Fire Chief, Acting Director of Park and Recreation and the Assistant to the City Clerk.

**1. WEST BANK URBAN RENEWAL PLAN.**

Ms. Janet Cornish of Community Development Services of Montana, presented an explanation of the necessary steps in developing an Urban Renewal Plan. In accordance with those steps, the Commission would be considering an Ordinance to set a public hearing at the Commission Meeting. Ms. Cornish reiterated that the plan was actually a guide, not specific activities, for what the community would like to see.

Specific goals set for the West Bank Urban Renewal Plan were:

- Foster development in the West Bank Urban Renewal District in phases with respect to the availability of land following the removal of contaminants.
- Ensure that all land uses within the West Bank Urban Renewal District have safe water supplies, environmentally sound wastewater disposal systems, solid waste recycling/collection programs, and stormwater management systems that protect the public health, safety and welfare.
- Provide a safe, efficient, accessible and cost-effective transportation system that offers viable choices for moving people and goods throughout the West Bank Urban Renewal District.
- Maintain and Improve West Bank Park within the West Bank Urban Renewal District.
- Urban Renewal Projects should be designed in a manner that is respectful of the area's natural and cultural setting with particular attention to landscaping and lighting.
- Encourage thoughtful, well designed private development activity.
- Coordinate the West Bank Urban Renewal program with ongoing efforts to revitalize Downtown Great Falls.
- Assess, preserve and interpret historic and cultural resources within the West Bank Urban Renewal District.
- Promote beneficial, sustainable economic development that utilizes the River as an amenity while preserving and enhancing its ecological integrity and asset values.

Members of the audience raised questions concerning the status of the federal courthouse project and whether the railroad had given permission for access for the West Bank Park project. Staff responded to these questions, noting that to their knowledge funding had not been completed for the

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courthouse and Jim Rearden was planning to meet with Burlington Northern to discuss various issues, one being access to the park.

## **2. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE.**

Ms. Tonya Jorgensen gave an status report on the Business Improvement District. Ms. Jorgensen distributed copies of the 2007/2008 Strategic Business Plan, which addressed both Short and Long Term Goals for the Business Improvement District.

Plans were also announced that the Business Improvement District and Downtown Great Falls Association would be moving into a location together at 13 5<sup>th</sup> Street North.

Ms. Jorgensen concluded her presentation with a statement that the Business Improvement District was an “Old Organization with a New Vision.”

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further information for the Commission, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of March 6, 2007, at 6:35 p.m.

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