

Comments for December 15, 2020, Great Falls City Commission Special Work Session, Maclean/Great Falls Animal Shelter

Jeni Dodd, Great Falls resident, December 14, 2020

I want to thank city staff, particularly Chuck Anderson, on all the work done to consider the various proposals submitted by the Animal Foundation/Maclean Animal Center regarding a potential partnership and/or contract with the city.

As a Great Falls resident and taxpayer, I ask that the city commission drop consideration of partnering with and/or contracting with the AF/Maclean.

Rather than focusing on the numbers presented in AF/Maclean proposals and statements that don't pencil out to benefit the city in any significant way, I will focus on why the city should not pursue a financial relationship with AF/Maclean based on their actions and their words—which affect everything in the relationship, including the numbers.

The city's most recent analysis of potential partnership/contract with AF/Maclean proves what those of us opposed to a partnership/contract have seen all along—AF/Maclean has failed to prove that it would be responsible and responsive with the city and its residents.

The city has already spend countless hours and resources in this effort for almost two years, only to be met by an organization who insists on ignoring some of the most basic requests by city staff. It is very alarming to me that AF/Maclean board members behave in this manner but it also shows me that they are not to be trusted. The citizens of Great Falls and city staff can't rely on an organization that is evasive and inconsistent.

For example, *GFAS RFP Final Analysis and Recommendations* attached to December 15, 2020 Special City Commission Work Session agenda packet, details the city's difficulty of dealing with AF/Maclean regarding the proposals submitted by AF/Maclean from June 2020 to the present.

“The two proposals lacked some basic RFP requirements that cause concern; no key personnel or project team listing w/resumes or bio's detailing experience, minimal historical animal service data provided, proposals lacked fee and expense detail to substantiate contract amount. The most recent proposal lacked relevant

program or service experience, project approach, procedures, or timelines to accomplish.

AF/Maclean's behavior toward the city as potential procurer/partner is appallingly unresponsive. Another example that gives pause is documented in the same analysis:

"In the most recent presentation the AF reps stated that they would take over all GFAS duties including intake of strays. Conversely, during the Aug 12, 2020 meeting between staffs, an AF rep stated what we can't handle, we will not take in." GFAS RFP Final Analysis and Recommendations, December 2020.

The AF/Maclean originally stated, even before the above documented exchanges, that they wouldn't take strays; they only wanted to take the immediately adoptable animals. Now, they suggest they can do it all for the same cost, but without any justification of why that has changed. They even demanded the Great Falls Animal Shelter be shut down if they partner/contract with the city, despite the fact that many volunteers and contributors devoted much time, effort and funds to add a cattery to the GFAS. The list of nonsensical assertions and demands goes on and on.

In summary, this paragraph from the city's *GFAS RFP Final Analysis and Recommendations* expresses it up perfectly:

"The bottom line is that while the proposals have drastically changed, the AF has not demonstrated meeting the criteria in the RFP, or demonstrated inherent knowledge or understanding of all GFAS functions. If a contract is awarded for \$475,000, the GFAS will be closed, the quality of care the community currently has will not continue, gaps in service will occur, and there will not be a substantial savings to the City"

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda item #1 (Maclean proposal)
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:39:56 PM

Good Afternoon – see comments below submitted by Pam Hendrickson for consideration during agenda item 1 on tomorrow’s special work session agenda.

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:38 PM
To: 'doggonecrazy@bresnan.net' <doggonecrazy@bresnan.net>
Subject: RE: Agenda item #1 (Maclean proposal)

Good Afternoon Pam – thank you for your comments that will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during agenda item 1 on tomorrow’s special work session agenda that begins at 4:00 pm.

Best,

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: doggonecrazy@bresnan.net <doggonecrazy@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:34 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Cc: Charles Anderson <canderson@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Agenda item #1 (Maclean proposal)

From Pam Hendrickson, city resident

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this email with my objections to awarding a contract to the Maclean Center, and attach said email as part of the official record of the December 15, 2020 work session. My objections include:

*THE SHELTER WILL BE CLOSED. Only crematory services will survive. **I am not aware of any conversation about what happens to the privately funded cattery addition at the city shelter.** Apparently that \$400,000 was a total waste of time and resources.

*MCAAC says they are suddenly capable of handling health crises, hoarding, criminal cases, and

every other aspect of animal care in our community. They have zero experience in these areas.

* MCAAC intends to somehow raise \$100,000 to expand their current building to accommodate the additional influx of animals.

* City staff have been unable to determine where and how exactly MCAAC will be able to save taxpayers any significant money.

* City staff have determined that RFP criteria have not been met. Yet our city commissioners continue to waste staff time and taxpayer money by entertaining this proposal.

*In October 2016, Owen Robinson approached the City about a potential partnership, representing MCAAC as past president. Per *The Electric* on March 11, 2019, "In 2016, Robinson said the foundation didn't want to run the facility [Maclean] and had never intended to do so."

"In 2016, Robinson told commissioners and city staffers that it would be difficult for the foundation to continue operating the center without city support."

In other words, MCAAC built a facility they could not afford to operate with the intention of obtaining City funds. Here we are.

Commissioner Robinson should be recused from all discussions of this issue, and certainly should not vote on whether to issue this contract to MCAAC.

Respectfully,
Pam Hendrickson
City resident

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda item 1 Animal Shelter Request for Proposal, final analysis and recommendation
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:48:40 AM

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Bob Kelly <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>; Mary Sheehy Moe <msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net>; Owen Robinson <orobinson@greatfallsmt.net>; Rick Tryon <rtryon@greatfallsmt.net>; Tracy Houck <thouck@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: FW: Agenda item 1 Animal Shelter Request for Proposal, final analysis and recommendation

See comments below from [Ashley Lyon](#).

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:47 AM
To: 'ashley lyon' <ashleyfern85@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Agenda item 1 Animal Shelter Request for Proposal, final analysis and recommendation

Hi Ashley – thank you for your comments that will be shared with the commission and appropriate staff for consideration during agenda item 1 on this evening’s special work session agenda.

Best,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
City of Great Falls
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
406.455.8451

From: ashley lyon <ashleyfern85@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:31 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Agenda item 1 Animal Shelter Request for Proposal, final analysis and recommendation

Good afternoon,

My name is Ashley Lyon and I am a resident of Great Falls, MT.

I would like to understand why the City is entertaining the idea of moving funding from the Great Falls Animal Shelter to the MacLean Animal Adoption Center? The MacLean Animal Adoption Center is well known for needing extravagant donation events in order to balance their budget while the Great Falls Animal Shelter is a fiscally responsible and stable pillar of our community. The MacLean Animal Adoption Center only functions as an adoption center. They do not take in sick, injured, deceased, feral, or human/animal shy strays. They only allow animals that are profitable to them rather than looking after all the animal residents of Great Falls. The Great Falls Animal Shelter, on the other hand, goes to great lengths to assist and care for every animal that walks, or is carried, through their doors on what can only be a razor thin budget as the City's overall budget is regularly tight. Whatever profits this body would hope to make off MacLean adoptions would only be squandered due to MacLeans perpetual mismanagement as evidenced by their increasing demands for private and public donations and funding with very little to show for the funding received. To take on the budgetary complacency of MacLean is not a suitable use of City funds when a perfectly functional Animal Shelter is already in the budget and making the most of every dime allocated to them.

I appreciate your time and insight,
Ashley Lyon

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Charles Anderson](#); [Greg Doyon](#); [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Dec. 15 Work Session Agenda Item #1
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:38:37 AM

Good Morning – see comments from Linda Metzger for consideration of Agenda Item 1 on tomorrow evening’s Special Work Session agenda.

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:37 AM
To: 'Linda Metzger' <legm7481@msn.com>
Subject: RE: Dec. 15 Work Session Agenda Item #1

Thank you for your comments Linda. As a reminder, the Special Work Session starts at 4:00 pm tomorrow, with the Animal Shelter RFP, Final Analysis and Recommendations going first on the agenda.

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Linda Metzger <legm7481@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:32 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Cc: Lisa C. Kunz <kunz@greatfallsmt.net>; Charles Anderson <canderson@greatfallsmt.net>; Greg Doyon <gdoyon@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Dec. 15 Work Session Agenda Item #1

Honorable Mayor Kelly and Honorable Commissioners Houck, Tryon, Moe, and Robinson:

I’ll be submitting both written and oral comments.

City staff have done outstanding work on this RFP.

Two red flags:

1. The Animal Foundation’s Option 1 is a bluff. In July, AF said if the City rejects Option 2,

AF will drop adoptions and “reorganize” their mission to “more education.” But you don’t need 13,600 square feet to teach kids to be kind to animals. And Critter Camps don’t pay the mortgage.

2. Beware the low-ball \$100,000 remodel figure. AF is continually in debt. Access to City coffers will only feed the monster.

No one owns the Animal Foundation’s assets. Their board can vote to dissolve, send a little paperwork to the state, and donate the Maclean Center to the City. It will “unite animal lovers and make taxpayers happy.”

That said, a reasonable compromise is the city manager’s Pet Adoption Pilot Program proposal, as described in his June 5, 2020 memo to commissioners.

Respectfully,

Linda Metzger, 32 Windy Ridge Lane, Great Falls, Montana 59404

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Krista Artis](#); [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#)
Subject: FW: Maclean Proposal - Work Session #1
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:34:28 AM

Good Morning – see comments below from Michelle Dahl.

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:30 AM
To: 'Michelle Dahl' <mmora62@live.com>
Subject: RE: Maclean Proposal - Work Session #1

Good Morning Michelle –

Thank you for your comments that will be shared with the commission and appropriate staff for consideration of agenda item 1 on this evening's special work session agenda.

Best,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
City of Great Falls
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
406.455.8451

From: Michelle Dahl <mmora62@live.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:24 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Maclean Proposal - Work Session #1

City Commissioners,

Please include my email in the official minutes of the City Commission meeting on December 15th, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

I cannot get off of work to attend the meeting in person or via Zoom and therefore this email is my response, opinion and concerns.

I am a Great Falls city resident and my address is listed below in my signature.

I am totally against Maclean's proposal to obtain city funding to take over the Animal Shelter for contract at \$475,000.00 per year.

There are numerous reasons that I am against Maclean's proposal including but not limited to the facts that it will Not save taxpayers any significant money and the RFP criteria have not been met.

Thank you,
Michelle Dahl

[Michelle Dahl](#)
1912 5th St NW
Great Falls, MT 59404
mmora62@live.com
406-231-9884

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Maclean Proposal Opposition
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:09:46 AM

Good Morning – see comments below from Christian Cornelius.

Lisa

City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:08 AM
To: 'Christian Cornelius' <reddevl74@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Maclean Proposal Opposition

Good Morning Christian –

Thank you for your comments that will be shared with the commission and appropriate staff for consideration of agenda item 1 on this evening's special work session agenda.

Best,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
City of Great Falls
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
406.455.8451

From: Christian Cornelius <reddevl74@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:06 AM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Maclean Proposal Opposition

I wanted to let the City Commission know my feelings on the Maclean proposal before your work session today.

I am vehemently opposed to this continued folly. The City Manager has said that the Maclean has failed to meet the basic requirements for the RFP; they have not sufficiently outlined or demonstrated their ability to cost-effectively manage shelter operations nor have they magically appropriated the funds and the space necessary to provide animal control services to our community.

I also would like to know what the proposal says in regards to the fundraising efforts for the Catio for the

existing shelter. Will the Maclean try to appropriate those hard-earned funds? They can't. But certainly doesn't mean that they won't try.

I am simply tired of this being an issue; it should have been a non-issue for quite some time now. Just because two sitting commissioners have a vested interest in the Maclean does not mean that the rest of the citizens in this town should knuckle under and give in. The Maclean has made their bed and now they will have to lie in it, WITHOUT the financial support of the City of Great Falls.

Respectfully,
Christian Cornelius McClelland
1122 4th Ave. NW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-868-1170

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: MacLean Proposal
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:38:09 AM

See comments below from Colene Parker for consideration of agenda item 1 on this evening's special work session agenda.

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:31 AM
To: 'Colene Parker' <colenep@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: MacLean Proposal

Good Morning Colene –

Thank you for your comments that will be shared with the commission and appropriate staff for consideration of agenda item 1 on this evening's special work session agenda.

Best,

Lisa Kunz
City Clerk/Records Manager
City of Great Falls
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
406.455.8451

-----Original Message-----

From: Colene Parker <colenep@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:53 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: MacLean Proposal

Without a plan for successfully taking over the functions of the Great Falls animal shelter, I am submitting my protest for contracting MacLean.

Colene Parker
939 10th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT
4067998920

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Today's Special Work Session
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:55:39 AM

From: Linda Metzger <legm7481@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Bob Kelly <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>; Tracy Houck <thouck@greatfallsmt.net>; Rick Tryon <rtryon@greatfallsmt.net>; Mary Sheehy Moe <msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net>; Owen Robinson <orobinson@greatfallsmt.net>
Cc: Lisa C. Kunz <lkunz@greatfallsmt.net>; Charles Anderson <canderson@greatfallsmt.net>; Greg Doyon <gdoyon@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Today's Special Work Session

Dear Commissioners:

I'd intended to comment on the Animal Foundation by phone; instead, I offer this:

Mayor Kelly: You're fond of 1960s cultural references. Kenny Rogers said you've got to know when to walk away. You should listen to The Gambler.

Commissioner Houck: Agree this has gone on too long.

Commissioner Tryon: Hang in there.

Commissioner Robinson: Props for recusing yourself.

Commissioner Moe: Your ongoing patronizing statements are out of line.

My favorite one-term President, John Adams, said "Facts are stubborn things." Here's a stubborn fact: Three of you voted to scrap the cattery in 2019 in order to advantage the Animal Foundation. Take that history and combine it with all the information you now have about AF, and know this: If the shelter is closed -- and shelter staff are fired (during a pandemic, no less) -- and the brand new cattery is mothballed -- the perception will be that the fix was in.

Linda Metzger
32 Windy Ridge Ln
Great Falls, MT 59404