

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**October 18, 2016**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Kelly presiding

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:40 p.m.

**CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Bob Jones, Tracy Houck and Fred Burow.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager; City Attorney; Assistant City Attorney; Animal Shelter Operations Manager; and, the City Clerk.

**\*\* *Action Minutes of the Great Falls City Commission. Please refer to the audio/video recording of this meeting for additional detail.* \*\***

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**2. ANIMAL FOUNDATION**

Maclean Animal Adoption Center (MAAC) Board of Trustees members: President Roxanne Klose, Jeremiah Johnson, and Past President Owen Robinson, reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation.

President Klose reported that the purpose of this meeting was to investigate the opportunity and ultimately establish a positive and beneficial collaboration between the City and MAAC. She discussed the mission of MAAC and the facility amenities.

Trustee Johnson discussed reasons the Board of Trustees of the MAAC sees in exploring collaboration, noting complementary areas of strength that could be combined. He reported that over \$4.5 million dollars was raised in cash donations over the past 13 years to help build the MAAC facility. He further reported that the trustees prepared an analysis of the 2015 City Animal Shelter and MAAC financials and concluded that collaboration could add to the income category through fundraising and could reduce reliance on taxpayer dollars to fund Animal Shelter operations.

Past President Robinson commented that it is not part of the board's proposal to request that the City take on debt. The board is asking the Commission to vote to instruct the City Manager to meet with MAAC representatives to work out and present a plan of collaboration within sixty (60) days. The board believes (1) the City should operate the MAAC facility with its employees; (2) the mortgage on the building should be paid off by the Animal Foundation, d/b/a the MAAC; and (3) everything else the City and board should collaborate on.

Mayor Kelly summarized that the board's proposal is for the City to explore collaboration with MAAC. He asked if the Commissioners had any comments, questions or concerns.

Commissioner Burow commented he didn't have a problem with exploring, but expressed concerns about not having enough information and the proposed 60 day timeframe.

Commissioner Houck didn't express any concerns.

Commissioner Jones commented he wasn't sure the City needed to do this, he wouldn't set a timetable, the donations made to the Animal Shelter would need to be looked into, and he would need to hear more from the City Manger after he talks with Animal Shelter staff.

Commissioner Bronson pointed out that any information shared from MAAC, a private corporation, to the City, a governmental entity, would become public information. He further commented that he doesn't know if it is going to be possible to close down or shut out the use of the current Animal Shelter facility. The incinerator being one aspect of that facility. Commissioner Bronson concluded in terms of going forward he doesn't have a problem with having a discussion to see what, if anything, the City can do, recognizing it isn't going to be done within 60 days. The City Manager will have to give the Commission some direction and guidance on how he would see a partnership being shaped, and whether or not he wants the input of one or two members of the Commission moving forward.

Manager Doyon inquired whether MAAC could continue to operate without a partnership with the City that includes a financial component to that. Past President Robinson responded it would be difficult.

Manager Doyon expressed concerns regarding MAAC's fundraising capabilities should the City operate the facility, MAAC relying on continuing to receive the same level of funds through its fundraising efforts, and, philosophically, how it's going to be balanced with the City running the facility and MAAC managing the facility.

Past President Robinson commented their thought is that the City should run the facility with its employees. The MAAC board does not want to run the facility and never intended to. It wants to pay the debt off, do the education programs and expand the building. MAAC thinks the City will be able to do it cheaper than it is now, if the two collaborate together.

Manager Doyon explained that, at the request of Mayor Kelly, this topic was added to the work sessions. Partnering is an issue that has the potential for significant commitment. However it is structured, if that is the direction from the Commission, Manager Doyon wants more involvement from the Commission this go round.

Commissioner Houck inquired if MAAC only had cash flow for 60 days.

Past President Robinson responded that cash flow for operations is based on fund raising. Right now the monthly bills are half operations and half for paying the debt. President Klose added that MAAC received a substantial estate distribution for daily operations, and she discussed MAAC's fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Burow expressed concerns, but concluded if they can save money for the taxpayers then he doesn't have a problem looking into it.

Mayor Kelly commented that the Foundation is an important asset to the community. The Commission's job is to represent the taxpayers and that the animal control operations are mandated by law. It becomes a business decision. It would seem to him irresponsible if the City did not at least explore the possibilities for collaboration, but it comes with risk as Commission Bronson discussed. The City will not enter into any agreement that will put the taxpayers at greater risk. The Commission is willing to look at this if there are savings that are sustainable and basically risk free. If the Commission doesn't feel in its judgment that is going to happen, that decision needs to be respected. He wants to make sure if the City does explore this that there is a promise on both sides that it is entered into in good faith, and if it is exited without an agreement, there will still be that good faith.

Commissioner Jones suggested that the City Manager provide the Commission with what he thinks the guidelines should be for Commission review and then the Commission can make instruction to the City Manager.

Commissioner Bronson concurred. He wants to hear from the City Manager and staff before proceeding further.

Mayor Kelly summarized Manager Doyon will provide the Commission direction for their consideration, and the Commission will discuss this at the next Commission meeting during the Commission initiatives portion of the agenda.

### **3. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS**

Mayor Kelly reported that the Park Master Plan and future repairs at the Natatorium will be presented at the November 1 work session. He reminded everyone that the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Great Falls Public Library.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Kelly adjourned the informal work session of October 18, 2016 at 5:38 p.m.

**City of Great Falls, Montana  
City Commission Work Session  
October 18, 2016**

Working Group Presentation  
by  
The Maclean Animal Adoption Center (MAAC)

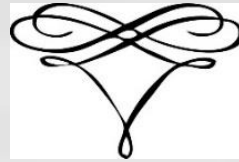
# Maclean Animal Adoption Center

*Enhancing compassion through education*

**727 – PETS (7387)**

900 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
South of North Middle School

# Animal Foundation Board of Trustees



*Roxanne Klose, President*

*Steve Titcomb, Vice President*

*Brian Hopkins, Secretary*

*Debbie Corn, Treasurer*

*John Huber, Trustee*

*Jeremiah Johnson, Trustee*

*Jeramy Myers, Trustee*

*Gene Thayer, Trustee*

# The reason we are here:

- The Goal:
  - First and foremost, to do the right thing:
    - For the animals
    - For the community of Great Falls.
- MAAC Board of Trustees would like to form a collaborative work group effort between the City and MAAC.

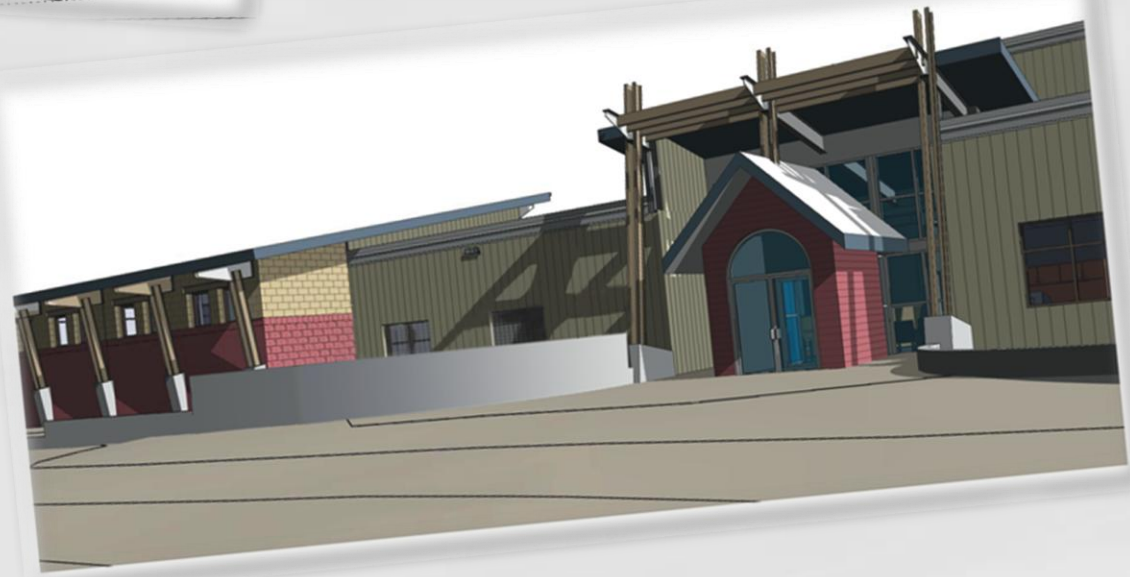
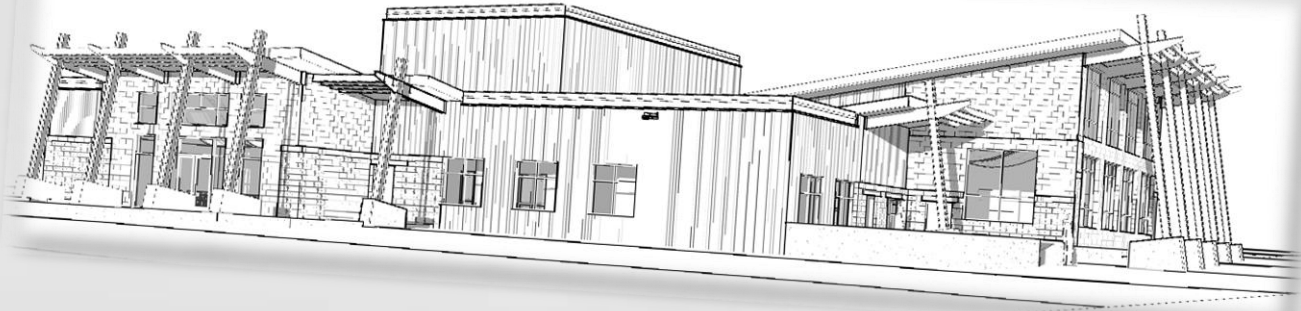
# Who are we and what do we do?



- Our mission: “Fostering a caring community for animals by providing shelter, advancing animal welfare and promoting the bonds between animals and humans through innovative programs, education and service”



# Where we were in 2002



Where we are today...



# Modern, Welcoming Facility

- Capacity for approximately 120 cats and kittens
- Capacity for approximately 60 dogs and puppies
- 4 acres of land
- New facility
  - Air exchange: 12 per hour
  - Sanitation system 73 underground drains
  - Separate areas for incoming dogs and cats
- Outside areas for animals
- Separate isolation areas for animals

# Modern, Welcoming Facility

- Education room
- Training and exercise room
- Medical room
- Separate area for food preparation
- Grooming room
- Commercial grade laundry facility

# Reasons for a Collaboration

- Complimentary areas of strength:
  - The City has expertise
  - MAAC has a proven track record of fundraising ability
  - Many benefits to animals, employees, volunteers, public
- Currently a duplication of efforts
  - Housing animals
  - Adoption
  - Fundraising
  - Volunteers

# Fundraising

- During the past 13 years:
  - Over \$4,500,000 raised in donations (does not include loans)
  - Over 8,000 gifts
  - Over 2,700 donors

# Financial Analysis

- Side-by-side analysis of 2015 City Animal Shelter and MAAC first year financials
- Looked at each line item – combined and estimated to model potential outcome

# What We Found

- Collaboration could add significantly to the income category through fundraising
- Relationship could reduce reliance on taxpayer dollars to fund animal shelter operations by over \$180,000 annually





# Questions

