

To the Neighborhood Councils:

At our January 21, 2020 meeting, Neighborhood Council Chairman Eric Ray presented the City Commission with the Councils' requests that the City conduct a study on the impacts of the proposed Madison Food Park. I applaud you for bringing the concerns of the people you represent forward in such a pro-active way.

As I explained to Mr. Ray that night and to the Council of Councils on January 28, any study conducted by the City would be expensive, would have a short shelf life, and would not necessarily be considered by the governing bodies with authority to make decisions about the project. There are, however, two better alternatives: a request to the state for a coordinated, multi-agency Environmental Impact Study of any slaughterhouse proposal and a request to the Cascade County Commission for a study of community impacts of such a proposal. I am working on two companion resolutions to be presented to the City Commission at its March 4, 2020, meeting that attempt to respond to your concerns as effectively as the City can.

Because you initially advanced the request for a study, I would very much appreciate your feedback on the discussion drafts of both resolutions. (They're very similar.) Other commitments make it impossible to attend all the Neighborhood Council meetings, but I plan to attend these:

NC 6: Feb. 5 at Sunnyside School
NC 7: Feb. 10 in Gibson Room of Civic Center
NC 1: Feb. 11 at Meadowlark School
NC 9: Feb. 13 at First Church of the Nazarene
NC 5: Feb. 17 at Great Falls Clinic Specialty Center

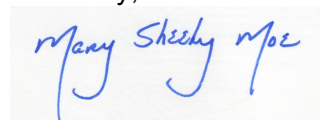
If your council is not on this list, I encourage you to attend one of the Council meetings listed above. As old business, this agenda item should be early on the agenda, allowing you to attend for that portion of the meeting and leave afterwards so that the Neighborhood Council can turn to its neighborhood's business. Alternatively, you can just contact me directly at 406-868-9427 or msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net

A resolution should lay out the broad justification for a proposed action to be taken or request to be made by the City Commission and then propose the action/request itself. It should be brief. To be helpful, your feedback should answer one or more of the following questions:

- Are the WHEREAS statements (a) factual or based on undisputed truths? (b) reflective of citizens' concerns? (c) clearly related to City interests? (d) connected to MEPA policy guidelines/County functions? (e) careful to acknowledge potential positive impacts?
- Are the THEREFORE requests (a) responsive to citizens' concerns and (b) connected to MEPA policy/County functions?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mary Sheehy Moe, City Commissioner