

GOVERNMENT REVIEW STUDY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2025
5:30 PM

1) Call to Order

Chair Kevin McDowell called the meeting to order. Members present were Sandra Alessi, Nathan Dugan, Dakota Whitman, Scott Wurster and Ex-officio non-voting member Michelle Howke and City Attorney Angela Jacobs.

2) Communications from the Public - (This time is set aside for the public to comment on items that are either on the agenda, but not a public hearing or on items not on the agenda. City officials do not respond during these comments but may respond or follow-up later on the agenda or at another time. The presiding officer has the option of limiting such communications to three minutes depending on the number of citizens who want to comment and the length of the meeting agenda)

None

3) Approval of January 8, 2025, Minutes

Nathan made a motion, seconded by Dakota to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

4) Old Business

a) Review and Approve Timetable (7-3-186, M.C.A) – Action required

Nathan, 2nd Dakota approve timetable as amended. Scott felt the timetable is too condensed and had given direction to Michelle to create a two-year timetable. He opposes the timeline. The motion carried, 4-1 Scott voting in opposition.

5) New Business

a) Discuss communication strategies with City council, city staff, and other groups, possible sub-committees

City Council – April 7th @ 5:30

Staff meeting – April 8th @ 10:00 am

Sub-committees with stakeholders – Resident employees of local businesses, renters, youth (Mr. Webb), age group 55+, Columbia Falls Study Commission, Volunteer Committees/Boards, wards vs. at-large (subject matter expert), (WHA, Housing WF, Shelter WF, Community Foundation), Large Employers (BNSF, WMR, School, Medical Field), County Commissioners, City Council, and City staff.

Commissioners were asked to send Kevin a list of potential groups/groups of people who they want to meet by March 5th.

b) Begin discussion on survey timeline

Commissioners compile survey questions by March meeting. Send questions to Kevin by March 5th.

c) Begin reviewing City Charter

Commissioners review, mark up, come to next meeting with ideas. Standing agenda item.

d) Introduction to LGR webpage (Engage Whitefish)

Send thoughts to Kevin and cc: Michelle.

6) Public Comment

None

7) Communication to or from Study Commissioners

None

8) Next meeting: March 12, 2025

9) Adjournment

Scott made a motion, seconded by Sandra to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm.

/s/Kevin McDowell
Kevin McDowell - Chair

Attest:

/s/Michelle Howke
Michelle Howke, Whitefish City Clerk