

From: Livingston Planning Board

December 18, 2020

To: Livingston City Commission

Subject: 2020 Accomplishment Report to the Commission – Livingston Planning Board

As experienced by the rest of the community, 2020 can be best described as a year of uncertainty for the Planning Board. As a result, tangible accomplishments were few. However, now that a Draft Growth Policy has been delivered, the Board is optimistically focused on the year ahead. The following outlines 2020 details by quarter and some thoughts on 2021:

First Quarter: The year started with the unexpected resignation of two of its “citizen members” and the need to quickly fill multiple vacancies. This loss of continuity required some temporary obstacles, but members quickly stepped-up to fill officer vacancies and begin the work to build a new team. Some members of the Board were able to participate in the January “Lunch and Learn – City Boards and Committees” with Burton to hear of the latest status of the Growth Policy and provide some initial feedback.

Second Quarter: As COVID-19 began to spread, a couple of Planning Board meetings were cancelled as the City focused on this emerging threat to the local community. Board meetings eventually resumed through the use of Zoom (thanks to Faith for all the help), but that took some time to get used to. In June, Burton held (two times on the same day) “Community Meetings” with the stated intent of allowing the community to “hear a status update on the Growth Policy process and continue the discussion about the future of Livingston.” Some Board members attended and learned that in addition to the update that Burton was also soliciting input on the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Territory (EJT). Realizing the high level of community interest on this topic, the Board worked with the City to extend the deadline for inputs on this EJT from two to six weeks and add an additional discussion session for the community via Zoom.

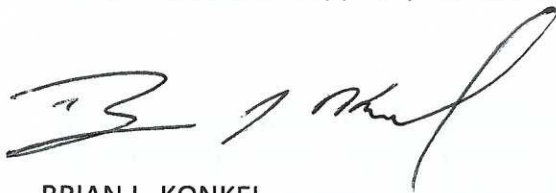
Third Quarter: Mathieu Menard was hired as Deputy Planning Director, and his presence at Planning Board meetings, availability for questions, and insights has been extremely helpful. The Growth Policy Community Profile was made available for public comment, and multiple members of the Board provided several written comments directly to Burton. Much of the quarter was spent discussing the upcoming meeting strategy (the when, where, how) on conducting the Growth Policy Public Hearings as required by Montana Code Annotated.

Fourth Quarter: The County Representative to the City Board, Frank O’Conner, resigned because he moved households and no longer met the eligibility requirements to serve in this capacity. A new County Representative, Taya Cromley, was appointed in December and the Board looks forward to making her a core member of the planning team. The 355-page Growth Policy was delivered and made available to both the community and Board on October 21st. Since that time, the Board has been reviewing the document and conducting four Growth Policy Public Hearings. As of this date, the Board

plans to request the City Commission extend the Board's deadline for a Growth Policy recommendation as a January 2021 City Commission meeting agenda item. It is the Board's opinion that it will need to spend more time reviewing and making recommended document edits before providing a final recommendation to the Commission. Finally, the Board plans to make a recommendation to fill the vacancies of two "citizen members," whose term expire at the end of the year.

Moving into 2021, there will most likely be a little bit of a transition period as new members are onboarded and the election of officers takes place. The Board intends to continue to work with the community, City Staff, and Commission to help ensure a new Growth Policy can be delivered and utilized for effective planning in the future. Once finalized, it is the Board's hope that the Commission will take the highest priority items and assign those to the various City Staffs and Boards to begin the more detailed work and analysis required to provide actionable recommendations to the City Commission. The Board hopes to be an integral part of that process.

As always, please feel free to contact the Board if you have any questions or have any suggestions on how we can better support your efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L. Konkell", written in a cursive style.

BRIAN L. KONKEL
Chair, Livingston Planning Board