

From: Chris Rodgers
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2023 11:36 PM
To: City Commission <citycommission@livingstonmontana.org>
Subject: Comments on 4 Ranges

Dear City Commissioners,

I was amazed to see the commission was at all seriously considering demolishing the Civic Center as a site for the "Wellness Center". Admittedly the Enterprise gave up covering issues of substance long ago, but still.

I am surprised if the City's Historic Preservation Commission has offered no opinions on this. What is the point in squabbling over this sign font or that paint color if they can't be bothered saying anything while this historic structure is threatened?. Does National Register status afford no protections at all? And would the state SHPO have any thoughts on this proposal?

It's been said this "Wellness Center" violates our Growth Policy. I was very interested to read about PFL and its real estate investors salivating at the chance to make you violate it. But if the commission is just tabulating numbers and sticking its fingers to the wind instead of defending the law, you have to ask if you could you then even become individually liable in consequence for knowing disregard?

I heard a rumor someone was trying to assemble a "public opinion" poll to justify the demolition – but polls can be used to claim anything if you phrase the questions rightly. I bet the reality is, if the full city population got word of what was going on behind the scenes, it might not be received well.

I also heard that the land for Miles Park was originally donated for use as a park specifically. Violating that original intent seems like a bad idea. Not that a \$300 annual membership is much better, especially when the average Livingstonian earns a lot less than the average city employee.

I'm told the Civic Center is almost a showcase of old time concrete engineering. Whatever the clods planning this crime were budgeting for the demolition, they might want to triple it. Remember just last year our local demolition people weren't even competent enough to take out even the Highway 89 railroad bridge on the first try.

And I believe you've been informed this site sits partially over a landfill, where the Yellowstone River actually flows underneath. My personal experience with engineers hired by the city is that they are capable of amazing blunders in even basic science. Have you ever seen the surface buckles and heaves not just near the Civic Center but elsewhere along that riverside? Whatever they've budgeted, get pledges from every single donor for double or triple for when the thing either floods, cracks, or both. It's strange to say they're doing this for kids if it's the kids that'll be on the hook for tens of millions in repair costs down the road. Maybe some of you on the commission are sharper than others, but the 4-Ranges Wellness Center's Miles Park siting plan might be the stupidest idea to come down I-90 since the Allen Spur Dam proposal in the 70s, and that one was a dodged bullet.

M Street Park may be the best alternative, but I can certainly tell you which option is the worst also. I would like to think, maybe even trust, that you really don't need this explained to you, and I wish you the courage to do the right thing.

Thanks for your time.