

## Minutes for the Livingston Urban Renewal Agency

### Special Meeting

March 14, 2018; Wednesday

8:30 a.m.

East Room

#### AGENDA

**1. Call to Order – 8:35am – called to order by Karla Pettit**

**Attendance:** Bob Ebinger, Joe Hanser, Karla Pettit, Quentin Schwarz, Mike Kardoes, Paige Fetterhoff, Matt Whitman, Patricia Grabow, Lincoln Zamrog, Derek Smith, Liz Kearney, Lisa Harreld, Danielle Crawford, Kyra Ames

**2. DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY – POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISM FOR BRIDGE LOAN OR GRANT**

**TO LIVINGSTON MCNAIR SKATE PARK** – Derek Smith gave an update of the skate park. Essentially they have about \$400,000 so far and they are requesting \$65,000 from the URA either as a grant or bridge loan. They will be doing the skaterpalooza again this year. They have averaged \$12,000 per year at the event. The construction contract needs to be signed by 3/27 or they have to start the whole process over again and will have to re-advertise for bids. The city has already pledged \$20,700 in in-kind donation and has given \$25,000 from the Skillman fund. The park is in the flood plain and has to be above ground. The city will grade to a 2 foot grade. The city will complete the grading. Also River Road will be completed as part of the project. A number of other Montana cities are either in the process of completing skate parks or have completed skate parks recently.

Hanser said he understands the urgency but he also said his impression is that the city has already approved the contract. Kardoes pointed out that the city approved the contract pending URA bridge funding approval. Hanser said the URA has other grants that it has had to put on hold recently due to a spending moratorium. Kardoes pointed out this is money the URA doesn't have and won't have unless the bond goes through. Ebinger disagrees with the way protocol has been handled in this case. He said some downtown business owners are opposed to funding this project. Pettit has issues not with the skate park itself but the way the process is being handled. Ebinger agrees with Pettit and said the CIP is priority. He also said he is in favor of a bridge loan and not a grant. Zamrog said this solution is a stop gap measure and he realizes it's a leap of faith for the URA to do a bridge loan. He said the skate park will continue to fundraise to raise the remaining funding. Smith agreed. Danielle Crawford added the skate park is very important to the young people in the community. Ames said she is in full support of the skate park and she would be in favor of giving a grant as opposed to a bridge loan. She said this is a blighted area in the URA TIFF district and would be appropriate for the URA to fund. Pettit said it will be up to 7 years before the money will be back in the URA budget to use for the façade program. Ebinger said he's not opposed to loaning the money but he wants to have equity with other downtown projects. Kardoes said the URA has several options including the option to say no to everyone or they can say yes to the skate park and then they will eventually get money back in their budget to continue the façade program. Kardoes said they can earmark funds to be used on the projects of Joel Reinholz and Storrs Bishop, projects previously put on hold with the moratorium. Kardoes pointed out the URA bond has to be used in 3 years.

When discussing whether to issue a grant or a loan, Kardoes said the URA could give the skate park a low interest loan and consider any loan portion as the grant or the URA could give them a 0% loan. Ames pointed out the skate park will attract visitors to the city. Smith added other skate parks definitely attract people to their cities. Ebinger questioned whether the skate park committee might quit fundraising once

they get the URA money. Smith agreed there are no guarantees but he said there are many people committed to getting the project done, including many young people. They will continue to fund raise and complete the project.

**Ebinger made a motion to approve \$65,000 loan to McNair skate park non profit project with 1% interest and any money returned to URA will be committed to Danforth project and Reinholz project. Pettit seconded. After further discussion, Ebinger made a motion to table the original motion until the regular URA meeting on 3/21/18. Pettit seconded. All in favor, motion passed 4-0. The contract has to be signed by 3/27. Pettit said she wants to talk to concerned downtown business owners before making the final decision .**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Next regularly scheduled URA meeting March 21, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.