



Heights Community Development Task Force

Regular Meeting Minutes
 January 28, 2020 7:00 p.m.
 Oasis Community Center
 Billings, MT 59105

****Please Note: Persons interested in an update on the Inner Belt Loop should arrive at 6:30 p.m. for a short status report on this important project. ****

Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Member to have floor	Allotted minutes	Est. Time	Action
I. Call to Order	7:00 P. M.	Chair	1	7:00	
Pledge of Allegiance					
Adopt Agenda	Meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.	Chair	1		Adopt Y/N
II. Welcome and Introductions - <i>We ask every person to present a brief introduction of themselves. (i.e. name, Heights' resident status, what brings you to the meeting such as speaker, what city or public office you presently hold if any [candidate running for office are <u>not</u> allowed by the by-laws to speak to their candidacy])</i>		All attendees	3	7:05	
III. Prior Meeting Minutes		Secretary	2	7:07	Adopt Y/N
IV. Reports	Police/City/County/School Board/Legislature	Members in Attendance	13	7:20	Receive
V. New Business/Presentation	Skyview High School Trauma Grant Substance Abuse CONNECT + Kick Off Feb 12, 10:00 am Mansfield Center	Claire Yenish Becky Bey Becky.bey@klijeng.com	10 30	7:30 8:00	Receive
VI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items			10	8:10	Receive
XI. Announcements	*Inner Belt Loop *Castlerock Park (see letter attached)		10	8:20	
XV. Adjournment until next meeting	.	Chairman	1	8:30	Adopt Y/N

When presenting information with written documentation please deliver a digital copy to the Chairperson 7 days in advance and have enough copies to pass around to attending members to review the night of the meeting.

Mission Statement

The Purpose of this Task Force shall be to improve the quality of life and promote community spirit through the improvement of the heights area, the planning of new development, the upgrading of housing, streets and the development of public infrastructure and facilities.

The agendas and minutes of previous meetings are available at:

<https://ci.billings.mt.us/678/Heights-Task-Force>

Task Force Officers:

Chair: Jennifer Owen - billingsheightstaskforce@gmail.com
 1st Vice Chair: Ed Arnold | 2nd Vice Chair: Ming Cabrera

Secretary: Pam Ellis - SecretaryHeightsTaskForce@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/heights> or www.facebook.com/HeightsTaskForce

January 28, 2020

Dear Mayor Cole and Council Members,

On behalf of the Heights Neighborhood Task Force, I want to thank City Council for its unanimous support of Council Member Neese's initiative to accelerate the start of the Castlerock Park Master Plan. This initiative, and the budget amendment that will follow at a future Council meeting, is a responsible and welcomed effort to make meaningful progress in developing a vital resource for all of Billings.

Moving the Castlerock Master Planning process into fiscal year 2020 is a no cost initiative that is consistent with the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and stated Council priorities. The current CIP plans for both a Castlerock Master Plan and a playground replacement in FY21. Accelerating the master plan to begin right away will help inform Council budget discussions and Parks Department planning efforts.

The funds for the master plan are identified out of the cash-in-lieu program, a funding source that comes from private developers and is associated with the neighborhood where development has taken place. Thus, the Castlerock Master Plan funds will come from cash-in-lieu dollars associated with the Heights and will not slow or impact parks development in other Billings neighborhoods. Further, there are presently no other planned park development projects in the Heights requiring a master plan.

The Heights Task Force is prepared to be a willing partner with the Parks Department staff in facilitating and hosting public meetings, as needed, as well as seeking out additional ways to invite public participation in the planning and development process. There is tremendous energy and excitement in the Heights to see Castlerock Park completed, knowing that a park of its size is an asset to the entire Billings community. We welcome last night's vote as a first step in a community-unifying process.

We ask that the Council schedule the necessary votes on budget amendments at the next available council meeting, so that the master planning process can commence as soon as possible. Our February Task Force meeting will focus on Castlerock Park development, to begin the community conversation on a vision that reflects both the history and the future of this beautiful park land. We welcome you all to join us for this and any future Task Force meetings to participate in the discussion. Castlerock Park is a benefit to all of Billings, and we look forward to working with Council and the Parks Department to move it forward.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Owen
Chair
Heights Neighborhood Task Force