

Madison County Housing Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 27, 2021, 9 a.m.

Courtroom, 2nd Floor, County Administrative Building
Virginia City, Montana

Attendees: Les Gilman, Cindy Gockel, Martha Klaumann, Mary Beth Walsh, and Joe Willauer (Webex)

Absent: Mary Oliver, Ray Shaw, Cody Sims

Supporters: Joe Willauer, Connor Gagnon (Helena), Bob Stump, Brad Schwend

The meeting of the Madison County Housing Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Mary Beth Walsh at 9 am on August 27, 2021.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

New members: Mary Beth will talk to Laurie in Commissioners office to see if she can advertise for new members for the Housing Advisory Council. It would be valuable to have members from Virginia City and Harrison area. We can also talk to the Commissioners as they may have suggestions from their respective districts.

Old Business:

Les will contact Brad Schwend after the public hearing regarding the proposed subdivision in Sheridan.

Website: Cindy emailed a draft of the Madison County Housing Advisory Board website to board members. All agreed it is good concise information and appreciate Cindy's work. We can share additional thoughts for the website with Cindy during the next month. Suggested resources to include on website are links to MT Housing website, Emergency Housing Program, Relief Funds, MT Land Trust and a list the bank uses that Mary Beth will send to Cindy.

ARPA: No update

Envision Ennis: Martha has been in touch with Cushing Terrell, the company that is facilitating this goal setting program. The public survey results indicate housing is a high priority. She has contacted Nora Bland who is heading up the housing section but has not had a chance to talk to her. Although this is a city project, the group feels we could work with them as creating affordable housing density would likely happen within city limits.

New Business

Twin Bridges: Joe Willauer reported that the Twin Bridges School District is proposing to build a duplex on school owned property in Twin Bridges for teachers. Roger Hutchinson also is building a single family residence in Twin Bridges that will soon be available for sale.

The Town of Twin Bridges is considering a moratorium on vacation rentals, perhaps 6% of total housing.

Additional discussion: Single family homes are consumptive so we should encourage increased density. Is it helpful to encourage increasing wages in the county?


Headwaters RC & D in Butte is going to be doing a rural housing study. How could we support or assist with this?

Foothold is committed to strengthening communities by creating high-quality, equitable, and sustainable housing. They are building prefab and modular homes in Bozeman and have opened a new factory in Butte.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be Sep 24, 2021 at 9 am, same location.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Klaumann, Secretary


Approved by Chair Mary Beth Walsh