

Missoula Board of County Commissioners

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES COVER SHEET



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 – 2 PM

Hybrid meeting – Missoula County Courthouse Annex Sophie Moiese
Room/Microsoft Teams

[Click here to view the meeting recording.](#)

Time stamps (in green) correspond to meeting recording above. Please click to
the time stamps listed to view a particular item in the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Chair Josh Slotnick
Commissioner David Strohmaier
Commissioner Juanita Vero

Staff Present:

Cheryl Hartman, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office
Vinnie Pavlish, Civil Deputy Attorney, Attorney's Office
Kali Becher, Manager, Open Lands and Projects
Juniper Davis, Manager, Parks, Trails, and Open Lands
Christina Dewar, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office
Jacob Allington, Civil Deputy Attorney, Attorney's Office
Chet Crowser, Chief Officer, Lands and Communities
Brian West, Civil Deputy Attorney, Attorney's Office
Rachel Manning, Administrative Assistant, Planning, Development and Sustainability

1. **CALL TO ORDER** *[Time stamp – 0:01]*
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *[Time stamp – 0:05]*
3. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *[Time stamp – 0:20]*
Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.
4. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** *[Time stamp – 0:31]*
 - a. Closed Captioning
 - b. Proclamation: Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** *[Time stamp – 4:28]*

6. CURRENT CLAIMS LIST [Time stamp – 17:57]

Claims received as of November 29, 2023 to December 04, 2023 by the Commissioners' Office total \$1,603.997.21.

7. HEARINGS

a. Marshall Mountain Park Interlocal Agreement and Master Plan [Time stamp – 18:16]

Juniper Davis, Manager, Parks, Trails, and Open Lands
Kali Becher, Manager, Open Lands and Projects

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County hereby adopt and approve the 2023 Interlocal Agreement between Missoula County and the City of Missoula for the acquisition for the Development, Management, and Recreation programming of Marshall Mountain.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Book: 1096 Page: 717]

b. Marshall Mountain Parcels Acquisition-Purchase Options [Time stamp – 29:22]

Kali Becher, Manager, Open Lands and Projects

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that [the Missoula Board of County Commissioners] approve the resolution relating to the use of an alternative project delivery contract for the Missoula City-County Health Department building HVAC replacement.

Commissioner Slotnick seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Book: 1096 Page: 662]

8. OTHER BUSINESS [Time stamp – 1:40:22]

[None]

9. ADJOURN

Chair Slotnick – Called the meeting to adjourn at 3:40 p.m.

BCC Public Meeting December 14, 2023 – Transcription

This transcription was produced by transcription software. There may be discrepancies between this transcription and meeting dialogue. You can view the recording of the meeting on the county's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/missoulacounty> or contact the commissioners' office to obtain a copy.

Dialogue in the transcription attributed to "Sophie Moiese Room" is for all speakers that attended the meeting in person. Attendees that participated virtually are labeled individually.

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:1.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Good afternoon, everybody.

0:0:1.360 --> 0:0:5.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Welcome to our public meeting for Thursday, December 14th.

0:0:5.330 --> 0:0:6.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Would you please join me in the pledge?

0:0:9.200 --> 0:0:20.600

Sophie Moiese Room

I believe it's to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

0:0:25.240 --> 0:0:30.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Zula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the Aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispell.

0:0:31.0 --> 0:0:34.600

Sophie Moiese Room

People do we have any public announcements?

0:0:44.270 --> 0:0:45.60

Sophie Moiese Room

Hello everyone.

0:0:45.70 --> 0:0:51.420

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are joining us for this meeting virtually today, instructions for turning on closed captioning are on your screen.

0:0:51.590 --> 0:0:59.760

Sophie Moiese Room

If you're joining us in person, we'll have closed captioning on all the screens here in the Sophie Muiz room, and we also have assisted listening devices available.

0:1:0.50 --> 0:1:3.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Please come to me if you would like one and I'll get one for you.

0:1:3.430 --> 0:1:7.700

Sophie Moiese Room

We ask that all speakers today remember to speak slowly and clearly during the meeting.

0:1:7.770 --> 0:1:10.340

Sophie Moiese Room

This helps with the accuracy of the closed captioning.

0:1:10.730 --> 0:1:15.570

Sophie Moiese Room

There will be multiple chances during the meeting for a public comment virtually during these times.

0:1:15.580 --> 0:1:18.470

Sophie Moiese Room

If you like to speak, we ask that you use the raise hand feature.

0:1:18.480 --> 0:1:21.410

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are in Microsoft Teams, this is a small hand button.

0:1:21.700 --> 0:1:25.560

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are calling in on the phone, you'll need to hit star 5 to raise your hand.

0:1:25.570 --> 0:1:28.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Then once called on, you will need to hit star 6 to unmute.

0:1:28.560 --> 0:1:33.190

Sophie Moiese Room

If you have any questions during the meeting, please find me and I will help.

0:1:33.540 --> 0:1:34.0

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:1:34.790 --> 0:1:35.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks a lot, Joe.

0:1:37.770 --> 0:1:39.240

Sophie Moiese Room

Someone like to read a proclamation.

0:1:45.540 --> 0:1:58.30

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, this is a proclamation of the city of Missoula and Missoula County, whereas the winter poses extreme hardship for unsheltered and inadequately housed individuals, families and children in Missoula.

0:1:58.210 --> 0:2:9.730

Sophie Moiese Room

And whereas residents of Missoula will gather on the longest night of the year, December 21st, 2023, to honor and remember homeless individuals who have died in our community and environs.

0:2:10.260 --> 0:2:28.320

Sophie Moiese Room

And whereas since 1990, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless, this and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and is recognized by cities and states nationwide.

0:2:28.570 --> 0:2:44.110

Sophie Moiese Room

And whereas in remembering those who have died without a House of their own, we keep urgent the cause of ending homelessness, the need for compassionate response in the city and counties, collective commitment to prevent such deaths in the future.

0:2:44.950 --> 0:3:10.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Now therefore be it resolved that we, the Missoula board of County Commissioners and Andrea Davis, Mayor of the City of Missoula, do hereby recognize the 21st day of December 2023 as homeless Persons Memorial Day dated and signed this day, December 7th, by the board of County Commissioners and Mayor and Andrew Andrea Davis, right. Thanks.

0:3:13.700 --> 0:3:13.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry.

0:3:15.750 --> 0:3:20.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Does that take place at the courthouse last last year was on the courthouse steps.

0:3:20.470 --> 0:3:20.700

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:3:20.710 --> 0:3:22.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Just timber 21st, correct?

0:3:22.990 --> 0:3:24.680

Sophie Moiese Room

I just didn't know what the location.

0:3:25.70 --> 0:3:31.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, of course there was on the courthouse steps on the South side of the building, but do not know for sure if that's where it is this right. Thanks.

0:3:34.300 --> 0:3:37.30

Sophie Moiese Room

OK well I have small announcement.

0:3:37.510 --> 0:3:48.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, I do believe this is the last time I will be doing this last for another couple of years and that we switched chairs of the board of County Commissioners and you will still be sitting at the diet.

0:3:48.990 --> 0:3:50.610

Sophie Moiese Room

So we'll be doing this. OK.

0:3:50.660 --> 0:3:51.500

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, this one?

0:3:52.260 --> 0:3:54.680

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, he is resigning from office today.

0:3:55.850 --> 0:3:56.580

Sophie Moiese Room

You could have a lot.

0:3:56.590 --> 0:3:57.740

Sophie Moiese Room

You get a lot of excited people.

0:3:58.890 --> 0:4:3.780

Sophie Moiese Room

No, no, I just would be sitting on the left or the right here and someone else would be chairing these meetings.

0:4:3.790 --> 0:4:6.200

Sophie Moiese Room

But it's been it's believe that's gonna be stroma, right?

0:4:6.210 --> 0:4:10.770

Sophie Moiese Room

I once we, we will see, we will see we we rotate.

0:4:10.780 --> 0:4:11.600

Sophie Moiese Room

We just can't remember.

0:4:13.510 --> 0:4:20.980

Sophie Moiese Room

But I I I it is a child's thing, but it's I appreciate everyone's patience with my lack of mastery of parliamentary procedure.

0:4:20.990 --> 0:4:22.620

Sophie Moiese Room

And she's been super gentle.

0:4:22.870 --> 0:4:23.720

Sophie Moiese Room

And I appreciate that.

0:4:23.730 --> 0:4:24.380

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:4:24.780 --> 0:4:27.260

Sophie Moiese Room

And I have enjoyed it and hopefully done it well.

0:4:27.770 --> 0:4:28.320

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:4:28.390 --> 0:4:31.500

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we have any public comment on items not on the agenda?

0:4:36.800 --> 0:4:38.540

Sophie Moiese Room

Please let us know your name and push the green button.

0:4:42.910 --> 0:4:43.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Good afternoon.

0:4:43.670 --> 0:4:45.540

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is Josh van dewatering.

0:4:45.670 --> 0:4:51.600

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm hoping to comment on the menorah issue that I realize it's been a controversy and I'm sorry I was not.

0:4:51.610 --> 0:4:52.630

Sophie Moiese Room

You're a week late, Sir.

0:4:53.550 --> 0:4:56.310

Sophie Moiese Room

I am a day later, hopefully not a dollar.

0:4:56.460 --> 0:5:6.550

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, I did have a chance to review the previous comments online and I do feel I'm somewhat uniquely positioned to comment for a few reasons.

0:5:6.560 --> 0:5:8.510

Sophie Moiese Room

For one thing, I too am Jewish.

0:5:8.780 --> 0:5:14.770

Sophie Moiese Room

And Josh, I really appreciate it that your heartfelt comments, they spoke very much to me also.

0:5:14.900 --> 0:5:17.440

Sophie Moiese Room

I think you are exactly the right amount of Jewish.

0:5:18.140 --> 0:5:18.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

0:5:19.390 --> 0:5:21.790

Sophie Moiese Room

I am also a lifelong Missoulian.

0:5:21.850 --> 0:5:30.200

Sophie Moiese Room

I am and I'm now 60 years old, which is a bit of a shock to me, but my memory now in the Jewish community in Missoula, Mt goes back quite a ways.

0:5:30.410 --> 0:5:33.380

Sophie Moiese Room

And finally third, I am also a lawyer.

0:5:34.210 --> 0:5:46.20

Sophie Moiese Room

So and at bottom, I really think this issue is a legal political issue and so I guess I want to address both the criticisms of the Commissioners decision, which I believe were unfair.

0:5:46.250 --> 0:5:50.270

Sophie Moiese Room

And then I want to move to the issue of what should we do about putting a menorah out.

0:5:50.550 --> 0:6:9.330

Sophie Moiese Room

So I did review or I I looked at the comments online or I saw the the video of the previous meeting online and I really and I heard Rabbi Vogel complain or comment that he believed that a political decision, the reasoning for the decision, was wrong.

0:6:9.340 --> 0:6:13.170

Sophie Moiese Room

And I really feel this whole thing has been turned on its head.

0:6:13.260 --> 0:6:22.950

Sophie Moiese Room

To me, Rabbi Vogel is a private citizen who's gone to his public political county Commission and asked for a political decision.

0:6:23.60 --> 0:6:34.740

Sophie Moiese Room

And then is frustrated that the Commission made a political decision, and I guess I wanna start by emphasizing it is this is not an initiative of the Commissioners that has raised the ire of the people.

0:6:35.170 --> 0:6:43.320

Sophie Moiese Room

This is a response to a private citizen's specific request for his own group, Jewish people, which is my group too.

0:6:43.950 --> 0:6:54.580

Sophie Moiese Room

So and and I think it's unfair, frankly, to suggest that the the Commissions political decision or making a decision based on the politics of the situation was unfair.

0:6:54.730 --> 0:6:57.20

Sophie Moiese Room

That's what you guys are supposed to do.

0:6:57.110 --> 0:7:3.800

Sophie Moiese Room

You've done well and I appreciate your decision and I do take some exception to a number of the things that Rabbi Vogel said.

0:7:4.170 --> 0:7:6.660

Sophie Moiese Room

I and I wanna start by well that one I guess.

0:7:6.670 --> 0:7:13.970

Sophie Moiese Room

But I also want to comment on the degree to which his organization, HABAD, represents all Jews.

0:7:14.50 --> 0:7:27.200

Sophie Moiese Room

It most certainly does not, and he acknowledged in the beginning of his statements that he does not speak for all Jews, but it felt to me like as he went on, he did kind of sound like he was speaking for all Jews.

0:7:27.210 --> 0:7:38.710

Sophie Moiese Room

He said I had a couple of points Jewish people want this, we want this, he offered the example of habad being all over the world and menorahs being placed all over the world.

0:7:38.830 --> 0:7:46.650

Sophie Moiese Room

And of course, as a lawyer, I went back and I read the cases I have to say every single case I looked at was Kabad.

0:7:46.730 --> 0:7:54.310

Sophie Moiese Room

I did not see any other Jewish group of any kind raising a desire to have a menorah.

0:7:55.380 --> 0:8:7.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, so to the degree that he is offered the presence of kabad as or the presence of lots of menorahs around as sort of an indication that Jewish people want this, I disagree with that.

0:8:7.620 --> 0:8:20.110

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't think that's really the evidence, and I will say as a Jew in Montana for 60 years, I have never, ever, not even one time heard any Jew say, gosh darn, we should have a menorah out on the courthouse line.

0:8:20.360 --> 0:8:21.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Never have heard that.

0:8:21.600 --> 0:8:32.430

Sophie Moiese Room

And when the topic has ever come up, I've only heard you say, gosh, yeah, I don't, I don't think we should have a menorah on the courthouse lawn, and that is ultimately my position also.

0:8:34.840 --> 0:8:41.210

Sophie Moiese Room

So we heard a lot of and and I heard some other criticisms too, that your decision makes Jews feel like we're hiding.

0:8:41.260 --> 0:8:42.670

Sophie Moiese Room

I certainly don't feel that way.

0:8:42.680 --> 0:8:50.890

Sophie Moiese Room

I think that's unfair to come to the Commission, ask for decision and then say you suddenly have somehow sent Jews into hiding.

0:8:50.900 --> 0:8:52.450

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't believe that's true at all.

0:8:52.460 --> 0:9:1.150

Sophie Moiese Room

And again in my 60 years, I have never, ever in Missoula, Mt felt that we are believe in Rabbi boggles words sidelined somehow.

0:9:1.160 --> 0:9:2.350

Sophie Moiese Room

I just don't think that's true.

0:9:2.360 --> 0:9:4.260

Sophie Moiese Room

For goodness sakes, we have a Jewish members.

0:9:5.110 --> 0:9:8.560

Sophie Moiese Room

I myself have run for office countywide in Missoula.

0:9:8.840 --> 0:9:12.760

Sophie Moiese Room

I got trounced but had nothing to do with being Jewish.

0:9:12.770 --> 0:9:14.30

Sophie Moiese Room

It didn't come up at all.

0:9:14.40 --> 0:9:14.860

Sophie Moiese Room

I just.

0:9:15.170 --> 0:9:23.860

Sophie Moiese Room

I just don't think in my experience, at least at Jews are sidelined in Missoula and and does love live here.

0:9:24.180 --> 0:9:25.80

Sophie Moiese Room

I think it does.

0:9:25.90 --> 0:9:30.700

Sophie Moiese Room

You know when Neo Nazis showed up in front of her Shalom people showed up to protest.

0:9:30.830 --> 0:9:39.0

Sophie Moiese Room

I lived in Billings Mt around the time the whole not in our town thing came up and it was amazing.

0:9:39.70 --> 0:9:44.520

Sophie Moiese Room

It was amazing, you know, I went to high school in Billings, although I grew up here and people showed up.

0:9:44.530 --> 0:9:50.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So I you know this idea that somehow we Jews are not accepted in Missoula County or sidelined in Missoula County.

0:9:50.950 --> 0:9:52.300

Sophie Moiese Room

I certainly don't feel that way.

0:9:52.310 --> 0:10:3.870

Sophie Moiese Room

I've never heard any other Jew feel that way, and maybe the habad group feels that way, but I guess I want to emphasize that when Rabbi Vogel comes up here, he's speaking for the Hubad group and not for Jews overall.

0:10:4.0 --> 0:10:11.470

Sophie Moiese Room

And I don't think menorahs all over the place is any indication it's used generally across the country or in Missoula County.

0:10:11.560 --> 0:10:12.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Want menorahs?

0:10:12.520 --> 0:10:15.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Up so and I feel like I say I feel the whole thing's been turned on its head.

0:10:15.940 --> 0:10:17.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Head we've been asking.

0:10:17.360 --> 0:10:25.930

Sophie Moiese Room

We've been arguing about your why not the reasons you gave, which I think are very good for the why not including the current political situation?

0:10:26.200 --> 0:10:30.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Because with respect to the question of will this be misinterpreted?

0:10:31.0 --> 0:10:40.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, of course it will be misinterpreted because as you very correctly pointed out, Josh, a symbol is, is just stark.

0:10:41.0 --> 0:10:42.110

Sophie Moiese Room

There's no nuance.

0:10:42.120 --> 0:10:43.190

Sophie Moiese Room

There's no subtlety.

0:10:43.200 --> 0:10:49.670

Sophie Moiese Room

In fact, I would suggest that it is kind of an empty vessel that any person can fill with their own interpretation.

0:10:49.880 --> 0:10:56.570

Sophie Moiese Room

And frankly, I would use Rabbi boggles own understanding of what the menorah means as an example of that.

0:10:56.780 --> 0:11:5.20

Sophie Moiese Room

He told us that the menorah is both a Jewish symbol and a universally recognized symbol of peace and light.

0:11:5.450 --> 0:11:18.260

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't really think that I have not met that universality, but I guess my question is even from his perspective, which is it gonna be if we stick a menorah out on the courthouse lawn?

0:11:18.570 --> 0:11:20.100

Sophie Moiese Room

Is it a religious symbol?

0:11:20.430 --> 0:11:22.730

Sophie Moiese Room

If it is, I think that's unconstitutional.

0:11:23.120 --> 0:11:24.920

Sophie Moiese Room

And of course, you're a political body.

0:11:24.930 --> 0:11:27.320

Sophie Moiese Room

You shouldn't be making a religious stand of any kind.

0:11:27.330 --> 0:11:30.700

Sophie Moiese Room

So I assume he's asking for a political decision.

0:11:30.710 --> 0:11:38.100

Sophie Moiese Room

He's asking for exactly what he got, which was a decision based on the politics of the current situation.

0:11:38.970 --> 0:11:49.860

Sophie Moiese Room

UM, so those are my responses to the why nots and I guess the other question then the much bigger question is why should we put a menorah out on the lawn?

0:11:49.870 --> 0:11:52.420

Sophie Moiese Room

And my question is why?

0:11:52.480 --> 0:11:53.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Why do we want to do that?

0:11:54.10 --> 0:11:56.240

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, that's, you know, that's kiba's thing, right?

0:11:56.250 --> 0:12:0.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Like I say, I went through the cases I couldn't find a single case that was anything but habad.

0:12:0.980 --> 0:12:7.140

Sophie Moiese Room

That's kind of one of the things they do and they do a lot of good stuff and I don't mean to be critical of them as an organization.

0:12:7.150 --> 0:12:14.450

Sophie Moiese Room

They have every right to pursue their ends in our free country, as other Jews or other religions have their right.

0:12:15.200 --> 0:12:22.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm but but so why as a Jew, I don't feel that I want the menorah out there on the lawn.

0:12:22.260 --> 0:12:25.0

Sophie Moiese Room

I've never felt that way, and as I said, I've never talked to a Jew.

0:12:25.100 --> 0:12:25.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Feels that way.

0:12:26.660 --> 0:12:27.730

Sophie Moiese Room

What are we trying to do?

0:12:27.740 --> 0:12:29.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Are we trying to send a message?

0:12:29.260 --> 0:12:37.480

Sophie Moiese Room

I appreciate the rabbi suggestion that the Jewish people of Missoula County need a little boost right now.

0:12:37.530 --> 0:12:51.710

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean need to know that we're supported and I will quickly add, I don't think it's just the Jewish people of Missoula County have got, we have Palestinian residents in our county and I bet they're feeling like they could use a real expression of support also.

0:12:51.890 --> 0:13:9.180

Sophie Moiese Room

So my suggestion is if you want to support the Jewish community or the Palestinian Community, or as

you said, Josh, communities that are vulnerable, which includes us and I, I will freely admit that I am feeling that way as a Jew, much to my surprise.

0:13:9.190 --> 0:13:14.870

Sophie Moiese Room

Frankly, I'm a little surprised at my feelings and they're very deep and they're very real.

0:13:15.20 --> 0:13:18.110

Sophie Moiese Room

But I've gotta think a lot of non Jews are having similar feelings.

0:13:18.190 --> 0:13:21.530

Sophie Moiese Room

So if you want to make a statement, I would suggest do that.

0:13:21.640 --> 0:13:22.880

Sophie Moiese Room

Make a statement.

0:13:22.930 --> 0:13:24.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Make a proclamation of some kind.

0:13:24.620 --> 0:13:25.740

Sophie Moiese Room

Make it in words.

0:13:25.820 --> 0:13:27.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So we don't have an empty vessel.

0:13:27.860 --> 0:13:40.40

Sophie Moiese Room

That's septuple to anyone filling it with meaning, and if we do want to put something out on the courthouse lawn, if we do memory, wanna memorialize something, may I suggest that we put out the Bill of Rights?

0:13:40.910 --> 0:13:43.920

Sophie Moiese Room

Because that's something that we all have.

0:13:44.30 --> 0:13:49.400

Sophie Moiese Room

And as a Jew in a free country, that's what I think keeps me safe.

0:13:49.510 --> 0:13:52.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Is the Establishment Clause our freedom?

0:13:53.10 --> 0:13:55.100

Sophie Moiese Room

That's that's what I would suggest.

0:13:55.150 --> 0:13:57.680

Sophie Moiese Room

No menorah yes to the Bill of Rights.

0:13:58.490 --> 0:14:1.560

Sophie Moiese Room

And then I and I noticed wanted that you you asked also.

0:14:1.570 --> 0:14:5.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So what do you feel about the the presentation as it is?

0:14:5.420 --> 0:14:11.130

Sophie Moiese Room

And I guess my personal feeling, I kind of don't even want the menorah next to the Christmas tree.

0:14:11.680 --> 0:14:13.410

Sophie Moiese Room

On the other hand, I love the Christmas tree.

0:14:14.80 --> 0:14:19.790

Sophie Moiese Room

When I used to work for the county, my kids love to come down to see that great big giant tree.

0:14:20.100 --> 0:14:21.470

Sophie Moiese Room

That's been an exciting time.

0:14:21.480 --> 0:14:27.850

Sophie Moiese Room

When I was a little kid, we lived up in Grant Creek and and my mom would bring me to town every Christmas season.

0:14:27.860 --> 0:14:28.750

Sophie Moiese Room

We go shopping.

0:14:28.760 --> 0:14:30.310

Sophie Moiese Room

C Penney was right downtown.

0:14:30.480 --> 0:14:35.700

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh, it was so exciting for me and the Christmas decorations were all by Jewish mother.

0:14:35.710 --> 0:14:41.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Really loved them, so I I hope we'll keep the Christmas decorations.

0:14:41.280 --> 0:14:47.870

Sophie Moiese Room

But and and I heard one of the commentators say, or the commenters say that he thought it should be all or nothing.

0:14:47.880 --> 0:14:53.830

Sophie Moiese Room

No Christmas tree, and here's I guess, here's one of the problems of this whole area of the law. Right.

0:14:53.840 --> 0:14:59.990

Sophie Moiese Room

And I hope you will cleave to your lawyers on this one, because this one is a tough one and it is changing.

0:15:0.0 --> 0:15:6.250

Sophie Moiese Room

The US Supreme Court has dumped the old test and it's kind of an open question as to what's coming next.

0:15:6.340 --> 0:15:21.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So it is a very fraught area of the law, but one of the things I notice in that front area of the law is the cases generally come down by saying if that thing that we think of as a religious symbol, a Christmas tree or a menorah is sort of.

0:15:23.440 --> 0:15:31.150

Sophie Moiese Room

Sapped of its religious peace, then, it's OK, and generally the courts of hell that Christmas tree is not really religious.

0:15:31.500 --> 0:15:39.890

Sophie Moiese Room

I hear a lot of Christians worry, complain, lament that Christ has been taken out of Christmas.

0:15:40.320 --> 0:15:42.850

Sophie Moiese Room

And honestly, I kind of have to agree with that.

0:15:42.860 --> 0:15:50.710

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean, it's doesn't affect me as a Jew, and I personally like all of the nonreligious stuff about it.

0:15:50.820 --> 0:15:52.90

Sophie Moiese Room

I like the gift giving.

0:15:52.100 --> 0:15:53.580

Sophie Moiese Room

I like the family gathering.

0:15:53.930 --> 0:15:56.200

Sophie Moiese Room

I like that we slow down in the world.

0:15:56.210 --> 0:15:58.300

Sophie Moiese Room

I like that we talk about peace.

0:15:58.310 --> 0:15:59.480

Sophie Moiese Room

I like all of those.

0:15:59.490 --> 0:16:7.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Sort of non Christian things, but I feel for my Christian friends who feel that they're losing their religion and I don't want that to happen to the menorah.

0:16:7.830 --> 0:16:16.420

Sophie Moiese Room

Frankly, if we have to put the menorah up in a way that saps it's religiosity, gosh, as a Jew, I don't want that.

0:16:16.550 --> 0:16:21.900

Sophie Moiese Room

So I guess my message is let's don't put him in Nora out on on the lawn, please.

0:16:21.950 --> 0:16:28.510

Sophie Moiese Room

And and my final thing is if we are gonna have my Nora somewhere, I don't like the habad menorahs.

0:16:28.620 --> 0:16:30.290

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't find the very attractive.

0:16:30.300 --> 0:16:39.350

Sophie Moiese Room

I find them to be kind of cold and impersonal, and that one down at the fairgrounds, which I've talked to a number of people about and the universal reaction to me has been.

0:16:39.500 --> 0:16:43.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh really I hadn't noticed that I have noticed it though.

0:16:43.460 --> 0:16:45.300

Sophie Moiese Room

I personally don't like it.

0:16:45.350 --> 0:16:47.130

Sophie Moiese Room

I think it looks terrible.

0:16:47.340 --> 0:16:49.650

Sophie Moiese Room

It is behind a chain link fence.

0:16:49.800 --> 0:16:53.150

Sophie Moiese Room

It's kind of leaning off to one side, it's there all by itself.

0:16:53.200 --> 0:16:57.700

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't think it meets constitutional muster because it's there by itself.

0:16:57.790 --> 0:17:5.340

Sophie Moiese Room

I still think that the menorah standing alone is a religious symbol, but to me behind that fence, I think of concentration camps.

0:17:5.770 --> 0:17:7.140

Sophie Moiese Room

I hate it.

0:17:7.570 --> 0:17:9.520

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean, it sure doesn't make me feel better.

0:17:9.530 --> 0:17:11.500

Sophie Moiese Room

As a Jew, it makes me feel worse.

0:17:11.730 --> 0:17:13.460

Sophie Moiese Room

I would like to see that thing taken down.

0:17:13.590 --> 0:17:15.170

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you for your time.

0:17:15.350 --> 0:17:16.210

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks for coming by today.

0:17:21.120 --> 0:17:22.90

Sophie Moiese Room

I was looking for Matt.

0:17:22.340 --> 0:17:23.130

Sophie Moiese Room

Be alive.

0:17:23.500 --> 0:17:24.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Now you can go ahead.

0:17:27.450 --> 0:17:27.860

Matt Heimel

Our thanks.

0:17:27.870 --> 0:17:28.80

Matt Heimel

Yeah.

0:17:28.90 --> 0:17:29.140

Matt Heimel

Good afternoon, commissioners.

0:17:29.150 --> 0:17:31.420

Matt Heimel

I'm Matt Hymel with planning, development and sustainability.

0:17:31.430 --> 0:17:38.930

Matt Heimel

Just popping on to give a quick note that we did have an advertisement for a public hearing regarding floodplain regulations today.

0:17:38.940 --> 0:17:47.580

Matt Heimel

That public hearing is cancelled and we are on track with the reposting and holding that hearing on in the next couple of months.

0:17:47.590 --> 0:17:52.420

Matt Heimel

So if anyone is interested, stay tuned and we'll have more information out here in the next couple of weeks.

0:17:53.720 --> 0:17:54.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks Matt.

0:17:57.430 --> 0:18:7.770

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, seeing new other public comment, our current claims list claims received as of November 29th, 2023 to December 4th, 2023 by the Commissioner's Office total one million \$603,997.21.

0:18:7.780 --> 0:18:11.200

Sophie Moiese Room

'S office total one million \$603,997.21 today we have two public hearings.

0:18:11.210 --> 0:18:16.100

Sophie Moiese Room

And \$97.21 today we have two public hearings.

0:18:16.630 --> 0:18:21.680

Sophie Moiese Room

The they're both on Marshall Mountain and Juniper, and Kaylee will lead us off.

0:18:24.360 --> 0:18:24.910

Sophie Moiese Room

Excellent.

0:18:24.920 --> 0:18:25.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

0:18:25.360 --> 0:18:28.320

Sophie Moiese Room

Just a moment while we get the PowerPoint pulled up.

0:18:35.500 --> 0:18:35.930

Sophie Moiese Room

That's good.

0:18:35.990 --> 0:18:37.240

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, great.

0:18:37.650 --> 0:18:39.220

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, good afternoon, commissioners.

0:18:39.610 --> 0:18:40.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:18:40.790 --> 0:18:42.960

Sophie Moiese Room

For the record, my name is Juniper Davis.

0:18:43.30 --> 0:18:53.100

Sophie Moiese Room

I am the manager of Missoula County parks trails and open lands, and today I'll be tag teaming this presentation with Kaylee Becker, who also works for parks, trails and open lands.

0:18:53.110 --> 0:18:56.80

Sophie Moiese Room

She is our open Lands project manager.

0:18:56.350 --> 0:19:4.830

Sophie Moiese Room

The two of us have been working in partnership on this project, along with check, Krauser and many others from the community that will be talking about today and hearing from today as well.

0:19:5.990 --> 0:19:9.220

Sophie Moiese Room

We're very pleased to be here at this meeting today.

0:19:9.230 --> 0:19:12.830

Sophie Moiese Room

It has been the culmination of a number of months or years of work.

0:19:14.890 --> 0:19:21.740

Sophie Moiese Room

And the Commission has, before it's some important decisions to make around the acquisition ownership and long term management of Marshall Mountain.

0:19:22.980 --> 0:19:35.660

Sophie Moiese Room

We're going to start off this presentation by giving some project background, getting everybody up to speed on the current status of this project and then turning it over to you, the Commission, to make some of that final final decision making.

0:19:39.630 --> 0:19:46.520

Sophie Moiese Room

So first a project timeline to Orient everybody to where we are with this project, at least over the course of the last three years.

0:19:46.750 --> 0:19:55.780

Sophie Moiese Room

What I want to acknowledge at the forefront as a community members and partners have been committed and dedicated to Marshall Mountain for real, really decades.

0:19:56.660 --> 0:20:7.40

Sophie Moiese Room

There's been a strong ethic of public access, public participation and public commitment to this site that spans well beyond the time that's represented on this slide.

0:20:7.650 --> 0:20:31.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Nonetheless, our work here really is represented here as starting in 2022, in 2022, the city, county and other partners came together to determine whether we could propose to this Community a model that would allow for continued public access at Marshall Mountain in a way that could be insured for generations to come.

0:20:32.500 --> 0:20:49.210

Sophie Moiese Room

As part of that work of trying to articulate to the community and hear from the Community what this might look like, we all engage in some really robust community engagement that centered around the development of a conceptual master plan moving from 2022 into 2023.

0:20:49.760 --> 0:21:7.900

Sophie Moiese Room

Folks in this room will probably remember that we had a press event up at Marshall Mountain where we shared with the community the proposed model that the city and county and partners had come together umm to determine would be the one we put forward to the Community for consideration.

0:21:8.430 --> 0:21:19.470

Sophie Moiese Room

That proposed model that we released at that press conference was a suggestion that local government proceed to take on public ownership of Marshall Mountain.

0:21:20.180 --> 0:21:37.450

Sophie Moiese Room

That proposal included a consideration for the county to step in as the long term owner and manager of the property in partnership continued partnership with the city and in continued partnership with community organizations moving forward from spring of 2023.

0:21:37.860 --> 0:21:49.430

Sophie Moiese Room

We all and a large a large group of us, have continued to flesh out that model, to assess it, to continue with the work, with the master planning community engagement to to.

0:21:49.440 --> 0:22:6.760

Sophie Moiese Room

That's the project content to conduct due diligence and to be able to then come here today to you, the Commission, with some recommendations around whether we move forward with that proposed model for public ownership and long term management of Marshall Mountain.

0:22:8.330 --> 0:22:9.860

Sophie Moiese Room

That's our timeline where we are today.

0:22:9.870 --> 0:22:12.830

Sophie Moiese Room

And with that, I'll turn it over to Kaylee to handle a couple more slides.

0:22:15.30 --> 0:22:15.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

0:22:16.780 --> 0:22:28.190

Sophie Moiese Room

So I think we're all mostly familiar at this point with where Marshall Mountain is, but those who are maybe just tuning in, it's always good to just recenter and locate where this is.

0:22:28.460 --> 0:22:39.770

Sophie Moiese Room

So Marshall Mountain is a 488 approximately 480 acre area that is located at the headwaters of Marshall Creek, which is a tributary of the Clark Fork River.

0:22:40.320 --> 0:22:48.890

Sophie Moiese Room

This area has really become a gateway and a hub for variety of recreational opportunities and in does contain important aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

0:22:49.810 --> 0:22:57.60

Sophie Moiese Room

And this habitat extends across adjacent public land, which enhances connectivity at both the local and a regional scale.

0:22:57.350 --> 0:23:39.410

Sophie Moiese Room

It's also, of course, important to note that this land is located in the Aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kootenai tribes, and it is recognized by a traditional place name that translates roughly to has white clay by the Salish, Ponderay and Kootenai tribes in terms of recreation uses here, those started approximately in the 1920s and have continued and evolved to through today, including originally some back country skiing, and as time went by through development of a ski resort and then after the ski resort, other uses such as hiking and mountain biking and educational opportunities have all been added to this site.

0:23:41.140 --> 0:23:55.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So zooming in a little bit to the specific property we're looking at, you can see from this map that it is comprised of three separate parcels, each are approximately 160 acres and they are owned by three separate entities.

0:23:56.360 --> 0:24:3.270

Sophie Moiese Room

I think it's best to explain this current ownership composition through a little bit of the history of Marshall Mountain.

0:24:3.420 --> 0:24:5.110

Sophie Moiese Room

So as I mentioned, it was a ski area.

0:24:5.120 --> 0:24:17.660

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm sure people in the room today have had ski there or learn to ski there when it was operating until about 2002 and that was on the two southern parcels and currently owned by Izzy Dog LLC and five Valleys Land Trust.

0:24:18.390 --> 0:24:48.150

Sophie Moiese Room

The prior to five valleys Land Trust owning that parcel, though it was owned by the by Plum Creek and was actually purchased by The Nature Conservancy, which really played a key part in where we are today because they purchased it as part of this larger Montana legacy project and then held this specific parcel back and the rest of their lands mostly went to federal agencies, but this one was retained for a community use and was transferred to five valleys Land Trust to conserve and help find that community outcome.

0:24:48.880 --> 0:25:7.510

Sophie Moiese Room

And then in 2021 is the Dog LLC, which is a group of local philanthropists purchased what we call the base area of Marshall Mountain and the Conservation Fund, which is a national conservation nonprofit, purchased the northern parcel in April 2023.

0:25:9.70 --> 0:25:24.30

Sophie Moiese Room

It's important to note, too that while we talk about recreation uses here, that the area has been open to the broader public since about 2021 through a lease agreement with the city, where those two southern parcels that Izzy dog and the five valleys lay in trust parcels.

0:25:24.900 --> 0:25:33.150

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, in terms of what we're looking at today, this purchase by local government would secure and expand existing public access at Marshall Mountain.

0:25:35.640 --> 0:25:43.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So next we're going to go over some of the pieces of the assessment of the proposed county acquisition and ownership.

0:25:43.580 --> 0:25:58.770

Sophie Moiese Room

So City and county staff have been working to secure funding, conduct due diligence and develop ownership and management models for Marshall Mountain for this proposed park over the past year and additional detail on all of these elements can be found in the staff report.

0:25:58.780 --> 0:26:0.740

Sophie Moiese Room

If anybody would like to look there.

0:26:2.740 --> 0:26:4.530

Sophie Moiese Room

So first I'm going to go over.

0:26:4.600 --> 0:26:14.50

Sophie Moiese Room

There's this checklist of the assessment in due diligence that staff has been working on to complete, and it all relates to ownership and management.

0:26:14.60 --> 0:26:28.810

Sophie Moiese Room

I want to be clear too, that these aren't just pieces that would be completed as solely just acquisition of land, but these are really assessment due diligence pieces that relate to not just the acquisition, but what comes after the actual ownership and the management.

0:26:29.60 --> 0:26:37.340

Sophie Moiese Room

We're looking holistically at if we purchase this, what does this entail, not just to buy, but to be the owner owner of this public land.

0:26:37.350 --> 0:26:42.210

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we really need that full picture to assess what this would look like.

0:26:43.260 --> 0:27:28.720

Sophie Moiese Room

So in terms of the different types of assessments that we're done, you know, was report reviewing and site visits by qualified contractors, staff members of county advisory committees on all these different items you see in the list on the slide, including securing funding for the property title review appraisals, which are, I want to just know those are in progress, those aren't final yet purchase agreements with each landowner, environmental assessments, natural resource inventories, which largely we're conducted by the City of Missoula, Umm, prior to this project, probably in like 2020-2021 and then facility and building assessments.

0:27:28.770 --> 0:27:42.120

Sophie Moiese Room

So over all of that work, we're obviously pleased to say that there were no surprises or issues that came up that would impede achieving the goals and the vision of this project as we've we've framed it.

0:27:42.290 --> 0:28:2.340

Sophie Moiese Room

And I I really do also want to just note here too that all of this takes a lot of time and it has been really incredible through the generosity of the participating land owners that we have been given the time to fully vet this project and go through all of these steps that are critical, including public process and input and all these assessments.

0:28:2.350 --> 0:28:3.350

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you.

0:28:6.530 --> 0:28:9.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Next, I want to go over the project budget a little bit.

0:28:10.460 --> 0:28:11.240

Sophie Moiese Room

This is a slide.

0:28:11.250 --> 0:28:16.80

Sophie Moiese Room

I think we've shown in many presentations, it hasn't changed, but it's still important to review.

0:28:16.510 --> 0:28:27.580

Sophie Moiese Room

So obviously a lot of work went into fundraising and securing all these separate pieces as well as even just getting to the point of putting together a project budget.

0:28:27.590 --> 0:28:31.150

Sophie Moiese Room

So the Blue Table outlines different project costs.

0:28:31.160 --> 0:28:47.470

Sophie Moiese Room

I realized that that screen might be a little hard to read, so I'm just going to give a highlight in case people are having a hard time reading that for the estimated project budget that is made up of the estimated land value, which is 3.2 million.

0:28:47.480 --> 0:28:59.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Again, that's estimated we don't have final appraisals phase one and two environmental assessments, land appraisals, closing fees, legal fees and then costs to open the site to the public.

0:28:59.620 --> 0:29:8.340

Sophie Moiese Room

And that piece is around 600,000 and that comes to a total for all those items of approximately 3 million, \$882,000.

0:29:9.120 --> 0:29:23.890

Sophie Moiese Room

We are obviously happy to say we have fully fundraised for this project and that is due to the efforts of an rewards from multiple grant programs as well as the Missoula County Open space bond.

0:29:23.900 --> 0:29:49.740

Sophie Moiese Room

So the different funding sources that we've been able to secure our the Community Forest program funding, which is a national program of 600,000, very generous in kind donations from the land owners through sales of their properties at the low market value, the Conservation Alliance, the Environmental Protection Agency, Friends of Missoula Parks and the two million that was approved by the city and the county for the Open space bond.

0:29:50.440 --> 0:29:51.890

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, one thing I wanted?

0:29:51.900 --> 0:29:56.70

Sophie Moiese Room

As I've said a few times here is that those final appraisals are not complete.

0:29:56.80 --> 0:30:2.910

Sophie Moiese Room

I do want to be clear that that is not going to change the total cost of the project.

0:30:2.920 --> 0:30:10.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Any changes in value from what we've estimated will really just change the in kind contribution from the land owners.

0:30:10.980 --> 0:30:18.520

Sophie Moiese Room

So we don't, we would not anticipate having a situation with the final appraisals come through and we have an increased project cost.

0:30:18.530 --> 0:30:22.670

Sophie Moiese Room

That's not how it is set up, so that's why it's fine that we're still waiting.

0:30:22.680 --> 0:30:28.650

Sophie Moiese Room

And they are being completed through the Forest Services program as required through the Community Forest program.

0:30:31.250 --> 0:30:40.580

Sophie Moiese Room

I think that's all to go over there, though I'm happy to obviously answer questions at the end if there's any additional detail people wanna go over.

0:30:40.590 --> 0:30:42.60

Sophie Moiese Room

And with that, I'll hand it back to Juniper.

0:30:43.680 --> 0:30:44.450

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks, Kaylee.

0:30:44.540 --> 0:30:48.480

Sophie Moiese Room

I appreciate that I'm not in the notes for the slides.

0:30:48.490 --> 0:30:57.440

Sophie Moiese Room

I'll just say what fun it has been working with Kaylee on this project over these past months and I really appreciated your hard work and diligence working on this.

0:30:57.450 --> 0:31:2.350

Sophie Moiese Room

It's been a lot of effort, but with a lot of fun times too, so I appreciate it.

0:31:2.440 --> 0:31:2.680

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

0:31:3.520 --> 0:31:21.520

Sophie Moiese Room

So in addition to the site assessments, the legal due diligence and the good work that Kaylee has been leading, pursuing the funding and leading us towards closing and hopeful acquisition of the projects, we've also been thoroughly assessing the proposed model for partnership at future at a future Marshall Mountain Park.

0:31:21.810 --> 0:31:24.280

Sophie Moiese Room

So how do we partner with the city?

0:31:24.290 --> 0:31:26.740

Sophie Moiese Room

How do we partner with our communities and nonprofits?

0:31:26.910 --> 0:31:34.410

Sophie Moiese Room

How do we put together a management model that's really going to work for the county in the lead, but also for our community in the long term?

0:31:35.490 --> 0:31:41.120

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, the vision that we are working towards is one that would have robust partnership.

0:31:41.650 --> 0:31:43.240

Sophie Moiese Room

The county in the lead, yes.

0:31:43.250 --> 0:31:51.760

Sophie Moiese Room

But with the city right there hip to hip with us and being aided along the way by our governmental and non governmental partnerships.

0:31:51.770 --> 0:31:55.630

Sophie Moiese Room

So I'm going to discuss that in a little bit more detail in the upcoming slides.

0:31:58.40 --> 0:32:11.850

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, our proposed management framework and again I feel like I'm repeating this a little bit, but for the sake of just being exceptionally clear, the partnership or proposing is built upon a foundation of county ownership and management.

0:32:11.900 --> 0:32:17.50

Sophie Moiese Room

And I joke about this, but some folks are still kind of missing this piece, and it is fairly important.

0:32:17.200 --> 0:32:27.190

Sophie Moiese Room

So it is based upon county ownership and management of Marshall Mountain Park, but that is with the buttressing and the support of a strong partnership with the city and our community partners.

0:32:27.240 --> 0:32:28.950

Sophie Moiese Room

So we won't be going at it alone.

0:32:30.260 --> 0:32:38.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, the plan is for the city to remain a critical component of our success of that Marshall Mountain Park.

0:32:38.990 --> 0:32:56.210

Sophie Moiese Room

This will be done in part through continued funding of Marshall Mountain Park, but even more so, and I think of great significance to this community as their ability to pull off pretty phenomenal recreation programming recreational programming that has an impact in kids and adults lives.

0:32:56.920 --> 0:33:7.990

Sophie Moiese Room

We are aiming to see kids camps about Marshall Mountain Park, youth sports, adult opportunities, opportunities for adaptive recreation.

0:33:8.220 --> 0:33:30.450

Sophie Moiese Room

The list goes on and on and we will have the city as a critical partner in providing that the other piece of Marshall Mountain that we've already mentioned before but is truly unique as the communities commitment to this to this area, it's been decades long in the making and it is only gone grown stronger over time.

0:33:31.400 --> 0:33:39.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So another piece of this partnership, of course, is for us to continue to cooperate and continue to partner with nonprofit groups.

0:33:40.240 --> 0:33:43.340

Sophie Moiese Room

We can enter and we likely will into MOUT.

0:33:43.350 --> 0:33:47.180

Sophie Moiese Room

MOA's lease agreements or others that are needed contracts etcetera.

0:33:48.480 --> 0:33:58.170

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, that will help us utilize and leverage the good work of volunteers of nonprofits and their ability to grant right and fundraise.

0:33:58.570 --> 0:34:6.920

Sophie Moiese Room

We'll work with agency partners both at the state and the federal level to do important force management work and conservation and restoration.

0:34:7.650 --> 0:34:9.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, we've had many meetings.

0:34:10.450 --> 0:34:12.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Many, many meetings of the course of the last couple of years.

0:34:12.990 --> 0:34:23.890

Sophie Moiese Room

With all of these entities that I've mentioned and I can very, very confidently say we have many partners committed to remaining at the table with us as we move forward with Marshall Mountain.

0:34:30.480 --> 0:34:38.590

Sophie Moiese Room

We in government when we joined forces with another governmental entity, will often enter into an interlocal agreement.

0:34:39.160 --> 0:34:39.690

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:34:39.940 --> 0:34:48.110

Sophie Moiese Room

And that will spell out umm and define the relationship that we will use as we move forward on an important initiative.

0:34:49.380 --> 0:35:4.580

Sophie Moiese Room

So in this case, with Marshall Mountain, we are we have finalized a draft of the INTERLOCAL, which the Commission will be considering today, and I want to talk a little bit more about what's in that inner local and explain a little bit more detail what that county and city partnership looks like.

0:35:6.310 --> 0:35:8.770

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, just a minute when I get my notes pulled back up.

0:35:9.750 --> 0:35:13.420

Sophie Moiese Room

UM, largely this interlocal.

0:35:13.880 --> 0:35:14.600

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

0:35:15.420 --> 0:35:25.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Mirrors what I've spoken about so far today, so it's certainly mentions that the county will be the owner and the manager it mentions in great detail the city's role in providing recreation programming.

0:35:26.220 --> 0:35:29.790

Sophie Moiese Room

It also talks to the cost sharing for Marshall Mountain.

0:35:29.980 --> 0:35:39.750

Sophie Moiese Room

There's been a commitment at this point between the county and the city to each year contribute equal cash contributions to the long term management of Marshall Mountain Park.

0:35:40.690 --> 0:35:57.780

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, this is a really important component of the success of this project and I really think in my opinion that the commitment of both the city and the county to do this in equal partnership is so that's a really strong foundation for this, for this project moving forward.

0:35:58.650 --> 0:36:2.290

Sophie Moiese Room

The Interlocal also speaks to how we will allocate site revenues.

0:36:2.530 --> 0:36:12.600

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, some of our permitting and fee structure decision making for American and a lot of other kind of nitty gritty details that might bore you if I listed them out in too much detail.

0:36:13.310 --> 0:36:22.280

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm but but on its face it really sets a vision for for this partnership moving forward.

0:36:22.530 --> 0:36:43.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Last but not least, I wanna mention as well that the INTERLOCAL includes in it the finalization of the conceptual master plan which we began back in 2022 with strong community engagement this mark, this conceptual master plan really sets the vision for the future improvements and programming at Marshall Mountain.

0:36:43.830 --> 0:36:44.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:36:44.940 --> 0:36:50.300

Sophie Moiese Room

And by way of adopting the interlocal, we will also be finalizing the conceptual master plan.

0:36:50.830 --> 0:36:53.460

Sophie Moiese Room

So that's of particular note for today's decision making.

0:36:57.280 --> 0:37:6.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Finally, I want to just give a little bit more on the specifics of what the costs to manage Marshall Mountain are estimated to be for the future.

0:37:7.0 --> 0:37:19.100

Sophie Moiese Room

This is a question that we've received pretty regularly over the last couple of months and every opportunity we've tried to be as clear as we can so that our partners and the Community are fully aware of of this.

0:37:21.960 --> 0:37:27.540

Sophie Moiese Room

This slide represents what we call comprehensive management costs for Marshall Mountain.

0:37:28.360 --> 0:37:45.220

Sophie Moiese Room

Comprehensive management is a pretty complex body of work and I just really want to emphasize that it's more than just going up there and emptying the garbage cans, making sure the you know the ball toilet or or Porter potty or whatever you have is in functioning.

0:37:45.650 --> 0:37:47.760

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, a functioning order.

0:37:48.50 --> 0:37:50.940

Sophie Moiese Room

You know, these 3 parcels comprise 480 acres.

0:37:51.310 --> 0:37:54.480

Sophie Moiese Room

We have natural resource restoration projects in mind.

0:37:54.490 --> 0:37:56.550

Sophie Moiese Room

We have forest management that we need to complete.

0:37:56.560 --> 0:38:5.400

Sophie Moiese Room

We have existing trails that need to be paved, future trails that will increase our level of maintenance responsibility, event permit, event permitting.

0:38:5.670 --> 0:38:13.360

Sophie Moiese Room

If we move forward with improvements, they'll be contracting ever you've got budgeting, administrative operations, you know the list goes on and on.

0:38:13.530 --> 0:38:25.110

Sophie Moiese Room

It's a pretty complex site and we'll require us to do a decent job at managing that site for the public into the future, so we have an estimate.

0:38:25.120 --> 0:38:30.960

Sophie Moiese Room

The costs at full comprehensive management will be \$424,000 a year.

0:38:31.850 --> 0:38:54.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, we are realistic in knowing that we will need to ramp up over the course of three years, which is reflected in this slide such that we will build up our operations and our management capacity over the course of those years to the point where we are performing this comprehensive management in this current fiscal year that we're in FY24.

0:38:55.100 --> 0:39:21.390

Sophie Moiese Room

The Commission did allocate \$105,000 to management of Marshall Mountain in this upcoming year and also in this current fiscal year year, the city has committed to contributing an equal amount in in kind contributions through their ongoing management, which they have been doing through a lease agreement with the property owners in future years, the city's contribution would be cashed, but in this year it would be an in kind contribution.

0:39:28.90 --> 0:39:30.660

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, we're moving right into the last couple of slides.

0:39:31.500 --> 0:39:32.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:39:32.80 --> 0:39:43.200

Sophie Moiese Room

So with this piece I wanna take a moment to summarize public engagement and input, which has been pretty extensive throughout this process because it's been ongoing for so many.

0:39:45.480 --> 0:39:47.900

Sophie Moiese Room

For so many years, am I looking at the right slide? Yes.

0:39:50.320 --> 0:39:50.770

Sophie Moiese Room

Alright.

0:39:50.870 --> 0:39:52.910

Sophie Moiese Room

Moving along in my sides. Umm.

0:39:54.960 --> 0:40:8.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Through numerous opportunities related to a number of different planning processes that we've had, the county and the city have had the opportunity to do a lot of engagement throughout the engagement process.

0:40:8.90 --> 0:40:14.790

Sophie Moiese Room

We have found there to be a lot of excitement about this project and that the public is largely very supportive of the project.

0:40:15.620 --> 0:40:21.860

Sophie Moiese Room

UM, we as staff took some time to really try to summarize in an accurate way.

0:40:22.470 --> 0:40:34.180

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, the vocalization of questions and concerns that we have been asked about the project as we've moved forward and we really want to make sure we give those adequate time at this meeting for the Commission to understand.

0:40:34.690 --> 0:40:47.400

Sophie Moiese Room

We would categorize them as largely being in the categories of folks having questions and concerns about the tax burden to city and county residents, for the acquisition and ongoing management costs.

0:40:48.190 --> 0:40:59.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Two weather public access through local government is the right outcome for the property and three uh, how different uses and conservation needs of the properties can best be blended.

0:41:2.760 --> 0:41:10.270

Sophie Moiese Room

We have taken this project through numerous city and county advisory bodies.

0:41:10.640 --> 0:41:23.930

Sophie Moiese Room

The city Parks and Recreation Board, the county parks and Trails Advisory Board, the City Open Space Advisory Committee and the County Open Lands Citizen Advisory Committee all have landed their recommendation and support to the project.

0:41:25.440 --> 0:41:27.30

Sophie Moiese Room

That's our summary of public comment.

0:41:27.580 --> 0:41:38.650

Sophie Moiese Room

There were a number received they those that are in written form or in survey form are all included in our materials supporting materials for this agenda item.

0:41:39.80 --> 0:41:53.510

Sophie Moiese Room

If anybody wants to find out more information or where they can locate those, please reference the staff report that's attached to this agenda item and you'll be linked through that to all the different sources where you can find more detail about these public comments.

0:41:56.380 --> 0:42:1.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, so at this point we're just about on the cusp of turning it over to you all for your decision making.

0:42:2.200 --> 0:42:4.970

Sophie Moiese Room

We do have two recommended motions for you today.

0:42:5.40 --> 0:42:15.810

Sophie Moiese Room

The first is related to the Interlocal agreement and finalizing the conceptual master plan, and the second is related to the landowner agreements that will move us towards acquisition of the properties.

0:42:16.570 --> 0:42:17.210

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:42:17.390 --> 0:42:19.110

Sophie Moiese Room

With that, I just want to.

0:42:21.30 --> 0:42:22.260

Sophie Moiese Room

Give one more.

0:42:22.590 --> 0:42:31.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you to the land owners who stepped in Umm to uh to protect these properties for us.

0:42:31.520 --> 0:42:42.10

Sophie Moiese Room

While we could work through our public process, comma new organizations who have committed their time and effort, and to our committee members who made multiple side trips and sat through laborious meetings.

0:42:42.260 --> 0:42:53.880

Sophie Moiese Room

And I would love if the Commission would allow we have three of the land owners here and they would all like the opportunity to give up, get up and provide a brief comment as to their visions would be wonderful.

0:43:5.590 --> 0:43:8.890

Sophie Moiese Room

I think you just turn the mic off mic off.

0:43:8.900 --> 0:43:9.480

Sophie Moiese Room

There we go.

0:43:9.750 --> 0:43:11.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, juniper.

0:43:11.490 --> 0:43:12.700

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you so much.

0:43:13.270 --> 0:43:17.470

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is Gates Watson, Northwest director for the Conservation Fund.

0:43:19.140 --> 0:43:29.50

Sophie Moiese Room

I, on behalf of the Conservation Fund, I'd like to thank Missoula County and the Missoula County Commissioners for their leadership and support of the vision of Marshall Mountain Park.

0:43:29.200 --> 0:43:34.870

Sophie Moiese Room

It's an exciting opportunity to build out our recreation infrastructure and preserve open space.

0:43:35.560 --> 0:43:52.670

Sophie Moiese Room

It's a big lift, I know, but it's one that will pay dividends to our community in the future and also just a quick thanks to the City of Missoula, the other landowners is the five valleys, Land Trust and all the many, many dedicated partners that have been so supportive.

0:43:53.60 --> 0:43:57.750

Sophie Moiese Room

And it's been a real privilege for the conservation fund to be a part of this broader effort.

0:43:57.860 --> 0:43:59.40

Sophie Moiese Room

And I'm just really thankful.

0:44:0.670 --> 0:44:0.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:44:10.840 --> 0:44:11.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Nice to see you again.

0:44:11.790 --> 0:44:12.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:44:12.360 --> 0:44:14.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Greetings, commissioners and staff.

0:44:15.40 --> 0:44:15.880

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm Whitney Schwab.

0:44:15.890 --> 0:44:26.950

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm the executive director of five Valleys Land Trust and I wanna start actually by thinking all of you for running such a wonderful public process and staff are incredibly hard workers.

0:44:26.960 --> 0:44:38.530

Sophie Moiese Room

And I know that the level of your commitment and dedication to this effort absolutely mirrors the Community and partners process that has come alongside to help us reach this point.

0:44:38.540 --> 0:44:40.580

Sophie Moiese Room

And it's pretty exciting to be here.

0:44:41.80 --> 0:44:51.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Five valleys is thrilled to be in the position to honor the nature conservancies legacy of ensuring a community outcome for this property for our parcel as well as the whole footprint.

0:44:52.380 --> 0:45:0.430

Sophie Moiese Room

So it's a really neat, neat time to be at this crossroads and The Nature Conservancy generously donated that property.

0:45:0.440 --> 0:45:11.550

Sophie Moiese Room

We've been stewards of it for the past nine years and we're thrilled to continue that legacy by making a landowner it a land donation on behalf of this effort.

0:45:11.560 --> 0:45:14.50

Sophie Moiese Room

So thanks for the opportunity.

0:45:14.60 --> 0:45:21.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks for all the work that's been done and please know that we will continue to be good partners into the future, whether we're the land owners or not.

0:45:21.440 --> 0:45:25.860

Sophie Moiese Room

So we're really excited for the future of Marshall Mountain. Thanks.

0:45:42.940 --> 0:45:43.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

0:45:43.820 --> 0:46:21.670

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm representing his Dog LLC and I I really don't know what to say other than to say that sitting here and listening to Jenna, frankly present and seeing all the partners who have been working with us for so long on this project, all of the goodwill Community support from the city, the county, just people that you bump into at the store and the gas station makes me really, really aware of how lucky I am to live in Missoula and how much I love Missoula and Missoula County.

0:46:21.900 --> 0:46:25.190

Sophie Moiese Room

So we are thrilled to be a part of this project.

0:46:25.320 --> 0:46:28.950

Sophie Moiese Room

We're thrilled that this outcome is on the cusp of.

0:46:30.680 --> 0:46:40.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Fruition and think that it's going to be a great thing for residents of the city and the county for for many years and generations to come.

0:46:42.160 --> 0:46:48.550

Sophie Moiese Room

The only other thing I can think of to say is that sitting back there thinking about the people involved in the process.

0:46:48.560 --> 0:46:58.70

Sophie Moiese Room

I got a little bit tired up thinking about John and Ken and how much I wish that he could be here to I have a handshake and a hug at the finish line.

0:46:58.420 --> 0:46:59.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyway, thank you very much.

0:47:16.100 --> 0:47:17.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Good afternoon, commissioners.

0:47:17.200 --> 0:47:18.310

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is John Stegmeyer.

0:47:18.320 --> 0:47:20.230

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm executive director of Mountain Bike Missoula.

0:47:20.240 --> 0:47:55.50

Sophie Moiese Room

We're a local trail advocacy maintenance builder here in Missoula, and I've talked to you a few times about my groups support for Marshall and what it means to us having the opportunity to build trail there and just the main thing that that comes to mind at this time is, umm, I appreciation for local government, seeing how important preservation of critical public land is is someone's said to me many times with property like this, they are.

0:47:55.60 --> 0:47:56.480

Sophie Moiese Room

They're ain't making anymore of it.

0:47:56.550 --> 0:47:58.560

Sophie Moiese Room

And you guys really saw that?

0:47:58.570 --> 0:48:8.440

Sophie Moiese Room

You you were all advocates of access and people getting outside, being healthy, and that includes the opportunity to have these places preserved.

0:48:8.450 --> 0:48:22.20

Sophie Moiese Room

So mainly I think on behalf of my group and just me and my family, we we really value you guys having that value set and being able to balance that in combination with all the other critical needs in the community.

0:48:22.70 --> 0:48:24.900

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you for for doing that hard work.

0:48:25.640 --> 0:48:28.340

Sophie Moiese Room

We remain committed partner going forward.

0:48:28.350 --> 0:48:36.200

Sophie Moiese Room

We're already talking with county staff about how we can support and having previously worked in county parks and trails.

0:48:36.210 --> 0:48:43.410

Sophie Moiese Room

I know health partnerships mean so much and so I'm happy to be on the other end of that and stepping up and that raw.

0:48:43.420 --> 0:48:44.140

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you.

0:48:46.280 --> 0:48:46.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Done.

0:48:50.740 --> 0:48:53.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Anybody else is welcome to say something if you want.

0:49:0.660 --> 0:49:1.790

Sophie Moiese Room

No, no, absolutely.

0:49:1.800 --> 0:49:4.140

Sophie Moiese Room

There was another person who, please, you're very welcome to speak.

0:49:5.500 --> 0:49:9.900

Sophie Moiese Room

Was there more owners that wouldn't like to say, Are you sure?

0:49:11.80 --> 0:49:11.520

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:49:11.730 --> 0:49:12.280

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:49:12.290 --> 0:49:17.940

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is Sue Holden and I'm with the East Missoula Community Council.

0:49:18.380 --> 0:49:22.80

Sophie Moiese Room

And thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

0:49:22.170 --> 0:49:23.800

Sophie Moiese Room

Congratulations on this.

0:49:23.810 --> 0:49:35.310

Sophie Moiese Room

We know the vote is more than likely inevitable, but we in East Missoula are very concerned with the traffic impact that this is gonna have.

0:49:35.320 --> 0:49:44.730

Sophie Moiese Room

And nowhere has any of the traffic potential issues that are gonna be more of a reality than mentioned.

0:49:45.460 --> 0:49:57.850

Sophie Moiese Room

I've attended other meetings, we've submitted written comment during public comment periods and the traffic seems to have kind of been put wayside.

0:49:57.910 --> 0:50:12.800

Sophie Moiese Room

So our big concern is with the mountain going to be going again, you have two ways to get to it through E Missoula or from the Bonner Way and.

0:50:14.740 --> 0:50:17.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Right now, Hwy 200 through E Missoula.

0:50:18.480 --> 0:50:29.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Gosh, last year we saw the impact that the new Sharon parking lot had and that was awesome because that parking lot was filled nearly every single day.

0:50:29.460 --> 0:50:35.340

Sophie Moiese Room

So much so that people still parked alongside the highway even though they most of them got towed.

0:50:35.640 --> 0:50:45.250

Sophie Moiese Room

But there was still traffic that parked along the highway, so there was a big impact with the completion of that parking lot.

0:50:46.500 --> 0:50:48.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Now we're seeing it.

0:50:48.520 --> 0:51:4.280

Sophie Moiese Room

It's really difficult to get on to Hwy 200 in most of the intersections throughout E Missoula traffic is so heavy through E Missoula that we're actually quite surprised that nobody's been hit.

0:51:4.990 --> 0:51:5.570

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:51:5.910 --> 0:51:8.170

Sophie Moiese Room

And killed or injured very badly.

0:51:9.320 --> 0:51:11.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, so we would, is there gonna be?

0:51:13.390 --> 0:51:14.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Plans for.

0:51:15.930 --> 0:51:20.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Traffic impact, yes, I see you shaking your head.

0:51:20.30 --> 0:51:20.620

Sophie Moiese Room

So yay.

0:51:21.500 --> 0:51:22.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:51:23.20 --> 0:51:37.770

Sophie Moiese Room

And we still have high hopes with the Highway 200 corridor project that should that funding come through, it's it's gonna make it so much better and have so much more opportunity.

0:51:37.780 --> 0:51:40.120

Sophie Moiese Room

So, you know, we still are hanging on that.

0:51:41.320 --> 0:51:46.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, you know, we're growing it kind of a rapid pace out there.

0:51:46.660 --> 0:51:52.250

Sophie Moiese Room

And so I don't know by how many citizens, but we've got three new.

0:51:53.760 --> 0:51:55.440

Sophie Moiese Room

Apartments. Buildings.

0:51:56.800 --> 0:52:2.680

Sophie Moiese Room

That have gone up well, two of them are still going up, but they're right there near Hwy.

0:52:2.690 --> 0:52:10.730

Sophie Moiese Room

200 so we're just very concerned about the impact of what that increased traffic is gonna do.

0:52:10.880 --> 0:52:12.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So I'll just leave it at that.

0:52:12.420 --> 0:52:19.300

Sophie Moiese Room

Since you're shaking your head and it's comforting to know that that hasn't been forgotten.

0:52:21.410 --> 0:52:30.710

Sophie Moiese Room

You know, I'd like to say that E Missoula as a community, was I more involved in the Community impact?

0:52:32.340 --> 0:52:37.470

Sophie Moiese Room

We tend to be forgotten about out there, and hopefully that's changing as well.

0:52:37.480 --> 0:52:40.610

Sophie Moiese Room

So you guys did a great job on your presentation.

0:52:40.620 --> 0:52:44.480

Sophie Moiese Room

It was very understandable and easy to understand, so thank you.

0:52:44.490 --> 0:52:45.330

Sophie Moiese Room

Appreciate it.

0:52:45.720 --> 0:52:49.450

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you to the Commissioners and to the rest of the staff.

0:52:49.520 --> 0:52:55.230

Sophie Moiese Room

You know, we just really appreciate your support and your time for the East Missoula community.

0:52:56.540 --> 0:52:56.920

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:52:58.260 --> 0:52:59.10

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks, sue.

0:52:59.400 --> 0:53:1.700

Sophie Moiese Room

And I had to do it anyhow.

0:53:1.710 --> 0:53:5.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, just give me a SEC chat, but please, you can stand there.

0:53:5.920 --> 0:53:7.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So Sue, thank you so much.

0:53:7.520 --> 0:53:11.250

Sophie Moiese Room

And those are really important concerns and I'm really glad that you shared them.

0:53:11.360 --> 0:53:26.470

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you for that and I'm really glad too that you brought up the Highway 200 corridor plan where we put real money working with the MPO to work with designers and traffic engineers to see how can we fix the the the situation that you very accurately described.

0:53:26.480 --> 0:53:31.90

Sophie Moiese Room

It's really dangerous trying to get on to Hwy 200 because the approaches are not defined.

0:53:31.480 --> 0:53:39.390

Sophie Moiese Room

The Highway 200 corridor plan would define those approaches greatly, increase safety, and we are actively looking for funding.

0:53:39.400 --> 0:53:41.610

Sophie Moiese Room

And I'm certain at some point we'll get it done.

0:53:41.740 --> 0:53:56.220

Sophie Moiese Room

And when you mentioned the speed and the congestion in that area, Dave and I were on site chatting with residents not that long ago and we have been in touch with public works and then and MDT to eventually we'll have to, we'll have to get MT's permission.

0:53:56.230 --> 0:54:2.970

Sophie Moiese Room

But this will be through a traffic study to change the speed limit from the top of Brickyard Hill to where you make a left and go up Marshall Grade.

0:54:3.20 --> 0:54:6.20

Sophie Moiese Room

So that's all under consideration and everything you said.

0:54:6.100 --> 0:54:7.520

Sophie Moiese Room

Agree with and is accurate.

0:54:7.530 --> 0:54:10.890

Sophie Moiese Room

I just want to make sure you know it is not at all sidelined nor forgotten.

0:54:11.260 --> 0:54:12.130

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Josh.

0:54:12.140 --> 0:54:12.650

Sophie Moiese Room

You bet.

0:54:12.660 --> 0:54:13.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:54:14.840 --> 0:54:22.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Another item I might mention is a lot of people are now starting to bypass Hwy.

0:54:22.820 --> 0:54:38.460

Sophie Moiese Room

200 and there, as they come off from either under the underpass or from the Interstate, they're turning right on to heighten and then turning on to Speedway, which is also the bus route.

0:54:38.870 --> 0:54:48.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Speedway is kind of becoming a main thoroughfare and you know, Mountain Lion takes that route and that that road's pretty rough.

0:54:51.0 --> 0:54:52.310

Sophie Moiese Room

And I don't know.

0:54:52.940 --> 0:54:55.220

Sophie Moiese Room

You know, I would have to talk to Shane whatnot, but.

0:54:57.690 --> 0:55:2.720

Sophie Moiese Room

Given an increase in traffic that's bypassing Hwy.

0:55:2.730 --> 0:55:9.620

Sophie Moiese Room

200 and using Speedway and going all the way down to the triangle to get back on to Hwy.

0:55:9.630 --> 0:55:14.540

Sophie Moiese Room

200 that Speedway is going to need to be considered.

0:55:14.590 --> 0:55:20.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh yeah, you know with with in a reasonable time as well for improvement.

0:55:20.170 --> 0:55:21.510

Sophie Moiese Room

So you're right.

0:55:21.990 --> 0:55:23.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you very much.

0:55:23.430 --> 0:55:24.170

Sophie Moiese Room

Your comments.

0:55:24.230 --> 0:55:24.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:55:28.300 --> 0:55:28.900

Sophie Moiese Room

Hi everybody.

0:55:28.910 --> 0:55:35.60

Sophie Moiese Room

My names Jeff Crouch Crouch and I'm here today representing friends of Marshall Mountain.

0:55:35.850 --> 0:55:38.480

Sophie Moiese Room

My 4 Co chairs and I have been working.

0:55:39.230 --> 0:55:43.960

Sophie Moiese Room

It feels like for 10 years, but only a year and a half or two years on this project and we all came together.

0:55:44.660 --> 0:55:48.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, I think Jed has been working for 10 years on this project.

0:55:48.420 --> 0:56:20.520

Sophie Moiese Room

Actually, he's one of my Co chairs as well, but we all came together because we believe in this as a public park for everyone forever, and I'm thrilled today and excited that it feels like we're transitioning from can we get this thing to happen to let's start focusing on the details and I want to thank everybody, county staff, city staff, the other primary partners and the hundreds of private citizens who have called emailed come up to me after meetings to share their stories and their passion about Marshall Mountain.

0:56:21.990 --> 0:56:26.80

Sophie Moiese Room

It's phenomenal and I'm really excited to be able to participate in this process.

0:56:27.350 --> 0:56:35.620

Sophie Moiese Room

Mainly I want to say today that friends of Marshall Mountain is here for the hard work that it looks to be in front of us now, which is making this reality.

0:56:35.830 --> 0:56:36.970

Sophie Moiese Room

The master plan is.

0:56:39.260 --> 0:56:40.70

Sophie Moiese Room

Significant.

0:56:40.80 --> 0:56:46.810

Sophie Moiese Room

And there's a lot of work to be done and a lot of money to be raised, and I just want everybody at the county to know that we're not going anywhere.

0:56:47.740 --> 0:56:56.930

Sophie Moiese Room

We already have raised a significant amount of money and we have a significant budget to continue to raise to try to start to see those at least phase one things of the master plan implemented.

0:56:57.200 --> 0:56:58.860

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you, everybody.

0:56:58.870 --> 0:57:0.740

Sophie Moiese Room

And we'll be talking.

0:57:2.620 --> 0:57:3.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks, Jeff.

0:57:7.980 --> 0:57:10.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Anybody else or anyone online want to say anything?

0:57:13.660 --> 0:57:14.240

Sophie Moiese Room

The other one.

0:57:16.60 --> 0:57:17.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Because storyteller.

0:57:20.60 --> 0:57:20.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

0:57:21.380 --> 0:57:26.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Is it true that that, yeah, this wasn't something like a county priority.

0:57:26.260 --> 0:57:28.750

Sophie Moiese Room

And like we're gonna, like, make this happen right away.

0:57:28.760 --> 0:57:29.270

Sophie Moiese Room

It was.

0:57:29.560 --> 0:57:40.900

Sophie Moiese Room

This was kind of something was like bubbling along in the background for 20 some odd years and then suddenly some private land owners and the stars started to align.

0:57:40.910 --> 0:57:45.940

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean some really special things happen to to get to where we are now.

0:57:45.950 --> 0:57:52.260

Sophie Moiese Room

And it was, yeah, it's just kind of magical and very intentional.

0:57:52.270 --> 0:57:53.960

Sophie Moiese Room

And a lot of hard work.

0:57:54.200 --> 0:57:54.820

Sophie Moiese Room

And it's just.

0:57:55.170 --> 0:58:3.630

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm thinking so impressive of how quickly all the partners came together to accomplish this and get to where we are now.

0:58:3.680 --> 0:58:8.750

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean, people have kind of dreaming and thinking about Marshall, but not enough.

0:58:8.850 --> 0:58:9.910

Sophie Moiese Room

We just.

0:58:10.280 --> 0:58:13.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, the stars weren't aligned, and it then suddenly it seemed to happen.

0:58:13.660 --> 0:58:16.60

Sophie Moiese Room

But I would you did a good job with that.

0:58:16.600 --> 0:58:17.130

Sophie Moiese Room

There is.

0:58:17.140 --> 0:58:25.450

Sophie Moiese Room

There is a an adage that says you come to understand how much you value something when you see it, you might lose it.

0:58:25.870 --> 0:58:30.540

Sophie Moiese Room

There we go and I think this whole situation came to a crescendo.

0:58:30.630 --> 0:58:42.310

Sophie Moiese Room

It was as you described, bubbling along in the background forever, and I think we assumed Marshall was a lot like the other chunks of when to say public land nearby that they are just part of our life here.

0:58:43.740 --> 0:58:45.980

Sophie Moiese Room

And then we found out that Marshall was going to go away.

0:58:47.560 --> 0:58:55.400

Sophie Moiese Room

And then the easy dog folks stepped in and could act quickly and nimbly in the way that government just can't and helped make this a reality.

0:58:55.580 --> 0:59:14.940

Sophie Moiese Room

I've talked with community groups all around about how do we how do we get the county to do X like fill in the blank and my response is we need diverse funding sources, broad community support to meet some obvious need, and this hit all of those talk about broad community support and diverse funding sources.

0:59:14.950 --> 0:59:36.190

Sophie Moiese Room

We have philanthropy and land owners and the city and the county and nonprofit groups, and soon I think we'll be bringing a lot of kind of the small piece of a capital campaign together through the Friends group it it picks them all and will eventually end up with, strangely enough, things as they we as we once thought they were.

0:59:36.260 --> 0:59:40.330

Sophie Moiese Room

That Marsha will be part of life, as Jeff said, for everyone forever.

0:59:42.470 --> 0:59:43.250

Sophie Moiese Room

That's where we're headed.

0:59:46.980 --> 0:59:48.900

Sophie Moiese Room

So why is there Community support?

0:59:48.960 --> 1:0:5.490

Sophie Moiese Room

You would hear the question from some folks raised are framed in a way that would lead you to believe that this is a completely speculative action on our part and that we're just deploying resources in hopes that someone will use this site.

1:0:5.550 --> 1:0:7.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, friends, that's not the case.

1:0:7.830 --> 1:0:8.810

Sophie Moiese Room

It is being used.

1:0:8.820 --> 1:0:12.100

Sophie Moiese Room

It has been well loved and used for decades.

1:0:12.510 --> 1:0:18.760

Sophie Moiese Room

It is being well used and programmed as we speak, so this is no speculative endeavor.

1:0:18.770 --> 1:0:25.630

Sophie Moiese Room

This is seeing the results and bearing the fruit of Community support already.

1:0:27.630 --> 1:0:36.490

Sophie Moiese Room

And this place and the use of this place goes back not just generations, but millennia.

1:0:37.400 --> 1:0:44.940

Sophie Moiese Room

Weird, but stewards of this landscape and I think Haley alluded to this earlier that.

1:0:46.750 --> 1:1:6.160

Sophie Moiese Room

One of our long time partners, who we hope will continue to partner with us in this undertaking as in this journey as we move forward as stewards are the Confederate, Confederated, Salish and Kootenai tribes, they are the original stewards of this place that we call home.

1:1:7.210 --> 1:1:12.10

Sophie Moiese Room

We in this room call home and many others have called home for a very long time.

1:1:12.930 --> 1:1:15.140

Sophie Moiese Room

They're absolutely is work to be done.

1:1:15.150 --> 1:1:18.180

Sophie Moiese Room

What we're doing today is not the end of the finish line.

1:1:18.190 --> 1:1:21.660

Sophie Moiese Room

I think Jeff might have alluded to work yet to be done.

1:1:22.70 --> 1:1:32.320

Sophie Moiese Room

This is the start of many folks in this room and and beyond rolling up their sleeves and figuring out the next steps to truly make this a reality.

1:1:33.590 --> 1:1:51.330

Sophie Moiese Room

So that a personal and professional level, I certainly would like to thank 5 valleys, the Conservation Fund, Rick and Izzy, Dog for your great generosity and also I definitely want to mention E Missoula.

1:1:51.340 --> 1:1:55.460

Sophie Moiese Room

So E Missoula's concerns have not been lost on us.

1:1:55.470 --> 1:2:14.370

Sophie Moiese Room

You are not forgotten and, as Commissioner Slotnick mentioned, as we speak, we have an application in with the US Department of Transportation to bring in an excess of \$20 million to do much long overdue work throughout the Highway 200 corridor.

1:2:14.380 --> 1:2:21.820

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we're working hard to address concerns that that we share with you and recognize as needing to be addressed.

1:2:21.830 --> 1:2:36.340

Sophie Moiese Room

So it's with a great deal of gratitude that I'm pleased to see those motions whenever they come up and if anyone is wondering, it is 74 degrees and sunny somewhere in the world, just not here in Missoula, Mt.

1:2:36.350 --> 1:2:39.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Montana, if you're looking at your screen so.

1:2:46.470 --> 1:2:48.90

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh, do you want to give us the motion?

1:2:48.100 --> 1:2:48.280

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

1:2:48.290 --> 1:2:49.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we have motions?

1:2:49.910 --> 1:2:51.690

Sophie Moiese Room

I've if we're ready for that, yeah.

1:2:54.460 --> 1:2:55.560

Sophie Moiese Room

I was like going to look on my phone.

1:2:58.190 --> 1:2:58.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Can't read it.

1:3:19.700 --> 1:3:22.10

Sophie Moiese Room

The anticipation is killing me.

1:3:22.870 --> 1:3:23.810

Sophie Moiese Room

The micro size.

1:3:24.960 --> 1:3:27.790

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, I would be happy to make the first motion here.

1:3:27.800 --> 1:3:29.430

Sophie Moiese Room

I've moved if we're ready for that.

1:3:29.440 --> 1:3:29.850

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, Josh.

1:3:29.860 --> 1:3:31.190

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, let's do it.

1:3:31.200 --> 1:3:42.290

Sophie Moiese Room

I would move that we adopt and sign that 2023 interlocal agreement between Missoula County and the City of Missoula for the acquisition, Development, Management and recreation programming of Marshall Mountain.

1:3:42.300 --> 1:3:48.130

Sophie Moiese Room

And finalize the 2023 Marshall Mountain Park conceptual master plan.

1:3:48.580 --> 1:3:50.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Second, alright.

1:3:50.260 --> 1:3:51.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment?

1:3:52.570 --> 1:3:52.800

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:3:52.810 --> 1:3:53.500

Sophie Moiese Room

All in favor?

1:3:53.830 --> 1:3:54.280

Sophie Moiese Room

Aye aye.

1:3:54.290 --> 1:4:3.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Aye, I move that we authorize the acquisition of three parcels totaling approximately 480 acres comprising Marshall Mountain Park by Missoula County.

1:4:3.740 --> 1:4:10.700

Sophie Moiese Room

By exercising the options to purchase the Izzy dog and five valleys Land Trust and entering into a purchase and sale agreement with the Conservation Fund.

1:4:13.190 --> 1:4:13.420

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

1:4:13.430 --> 1:4:16.170

Sophie Moiese Room

Second, any public comment OK?

1:4:16.180 --> 1:4:17.260

Sophie Moiese Room

All in favor? Aye.

1:4:23.590 --> 1:4:24.490

Sophie Moiese Room

And I believe we're done.

1:4:26.190 --> 1:4:26.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks everybody.

1:4:28.120 --> 1:4:28.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.