

## SUBDIVISION MEETING

November 4, 2004

Chairman Mike Murray called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Tinsley and Varone are present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Ron Alles, Sharon Haugen, Holly Kaleczyc, Jeff Miller, Paul Spengler, Cheryl Green, Lindsay Morgan, Dallas & Marlene Rennerfeldt, Dana Toole, Doug Vold, Matthew Dale, Mike Dalton, Sherrie Downing, Kay Mathews, Dave Morey, Justin Trafton, Mike Henderson, Sheriff Liedle, Carrie Stewart, Marlene Rule, Mike Menahan, and Carole Byrnes.

Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone recited the pledge.

CDBG Hearing on Application for the Friendship Center. Commissioner Tinsley stated for the record he is a member of the board for the Friendship Center and is confident he can make a wise and prudent decision on this issue without conflict.

Sharon Haugen reported this is a public hearing for the community development application that Lewis and Clark County is considering submitting on behalf of the Friendship Center. The Friendship Center is working with Rocky Mountain Development Council. The block grant is in the amount of \$500,000 for new construction of a shelter for emergency and transitional housing for victims of sexual and domestic violence and children. Representatives from RMDC, Executive Director of The Friendship Center, and several people who would like to speak on the proposal are present today.

Jeff Miller, Director of Community Development for RMDC, reported the grant application is due November 19. The grant application is in the amount of \$500,000 and is one of two grants to support the construction of a new facility for The Friendship Center in Helena. RMDC is hopeful to partner with the county and others, in particular, the Friendship Center, in support of this particular project. Rocky's role is anticipated to be the developer of the project and assist the Friendship Center in the construction and grant administration should the application be successful.

Holly Kaleczyc, Executive Director of The Friendship Center, stated the number of people requiring services for the Friendship Center has increased to 719 people and has provided more than 12,000 services. This service is done in a very small space with 9. The two buildings are approaching 100 years old. Staff is becoming very concerned that the buildings are not safe and not designed for multiple family living. There are no real security measures and nothing to accommodate children. The Sixth Ward neighborhood is very receptive to us and all of our clients. The methamphetamine epidemic in our community is really impacting the number of people who receive services and also the complexity of the support services and the shelter that they need and because people are using Meth are so violent and so unpredictable we really need to have a safe shelter where staff, resident, and the children are safe at all times.

Commissioner Varone asked Mrs. Kaleczyc to explain the anticipated funding sources.

Holly stated she does not have the budget in front of her but Jeff can speak to it. Rocky is such a treasure for this community and has been for the Friendship Center, as have city and county staff. We are really grateful.

Jeff Miller stated they have been working with Mosaic Architecture to work up a preliminary architectural report and they have designed a facility based on design which involved clients and others in the community to describe and define what would be the more ideal facility. They then estimated the cost of construction. At this point those costs are estimated to be at \$1.7 million. That would be made up of \$500,000 CDBG, \$500,000 Home grant, the sale of one of the existing facilities which is anticipated to bring about \$100,000. As well, the Friendship Center, has through careful stewardship, been able to set aside money and investments that will total \$130,000. There will still a balance to be filled and that is anticipated to be filled with a community capital fund raising campaign. Again, the principle sources of funding for this proposal would be: \$500,000 CDBG, \$500,000 Home grant, proceeds from the Friendship Center's sale of existing facility and savings accounts which would total about now \$230,000 and the balance will be filled in with fund raising.

Holly Kaleczyc further stated that two organizations, one person and one organization have already stepped forward. A landscaping firm has volunteered to donate all of the landscaping and all of the irrigation and the Soroptimist Club of Helena accepted responsibility for fund raising and challenging other service clubs to raise all of the money to furnish the new shelter. Holly introduced Kay Matthews, President of the Friendship Center, Board of Directors. She is in her second term and about to start her third term.

President Board Chair, Kay Matthews. Has been a member of the Board since 1993. Currently finishing second term as president. Though it has involved a lot of hard work, my services on behalf of the Friendship Center and the families the center serves has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. There are many things we can talk about when we talk about the value of the services the center provides and about how desperately we need a new facility. The center's latest statistics show that the center provided shelter and support services to 719 victims over the last fiscal year and they did it in a tiny old facility that can only be described as sub-standard housing. However, I believe the most important thing I can say is the domestic and sexual violence is a huge problem and it is not just the victim's problem or the staff's problem, or the police problem to deal with. It is a community wide program and a community wide responsibility to make sure every member of our community has a safe place to live and is free from violence. Domestic and sexual violence is a threat to the health and safety of all of our citizens. When family violence explodes, it is not only devastating to the victims and their children, it spills over into our neighborhoods, our schools, and our work places. This violence is tragic and expensive and will continue to flourish until we as a community stand up and say no. An important part of standing up

and saying no is to provide victims of domestic and sexual violence a structurally and emotionally safe and adequate place to rebuild their lives. On behalf of the board of directors of the Friendship Center, I would like to thank each of the Commissioners in their support of the Friendship Center and for this opportunity to express the urgency of the of the Friendship Center's need for a new facility.

Matthew Dale, Office of Victim Services within the Attorney General's Office. I was the Executive Director of the Friendship Center for almost 11 years before Holly came on and I can certainly speak from my own experience about the need for the services and also the need for a new facility. The Friendship Center is the only provider of domestic violence services in Helena in Lewis and Clark County and therefore there is no chance that we would be duplicating services. The Friendship Center stands alone in providing these services. An outstanding staff and outstanding Board of directors, the Friendship Center has done an excellent job of recruiting support throughout the community through their work on the basis of federal grants, state grants, and supports throughout the community who all work together to help achieve the success that Holly has mentioned. I also am here today standing in for Attorney General, Mike McGrath, who is a long-time board member of the Friendship Center, he is not able to be here and he is also is well aware of the need for the services and the outstanding work that the Friendship Center staff and Board does and also speaks in support of this application for CDBG funds.

Mike Dalton, Chief Operating Officer and President of Mountain West Bank, Helena. I had the privilege and opportunity to serve on the Board of the Friendship Center for approximately 9 years and during that time I was also president of that board of directors and during that time frame, I was just so disappointed with the fact that we continue to grow and the need for this service and we were always very conscience of the facility needs as far as the buildings go and we did look at opportunities that might be available to increase the size as the need grew in our community. It just never seemed to be able to fit and as Jeff mentioned earlier the fact that the Friendship Center has been fiscally responsible, they have been saving some money, they now have an opportunity to increase and improve their building facilities and we need this partnership with a CDBG grant. It is very important to this particular project and just like any project that takes place in Helena, it's going to take a partnership. There are a variety of entities that need to come together, there are fund raising efforts that need to be made, they've saved some money, they've also improved the ability to raise money in this community because they have raised the awareness of the Friendship Center so this is going to be a successful project. It is truly need in our community. I also stand in front of you from a businessman's standpoint and it think it is very important to be able to provide services like this when they are needed in our community. Our bank employs 100 people here in Helena, 80 of them are women and I want the opportunity if it ever arises for any of our staff if they need a facility like this that something like this can become available for them to help them and I would encouraged your support both as a citizen and a corporate citizen within our community.

Doug Vold, Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, 1000 Helena Avenue and also as an

active participant in the Helena Family Violence Council. What I offer as a member of the faith community of our town is a couple of perspectives. I've seen first hand what domestic violence does to families, what it does to individuals, and I have also seen that the people at the Friendship Center are extremely caring and extremely competent in the work they do. I consider this to be vital and an essential service to our community. I recently had an opportunity to tour the facilities in which these people work and I'm even quite sure how to describe it, I was quite stunned at that. These people who do such great work do it in alarming circumstances. Their facilities are cramped; they are crawling all over one another. They are fighting against the facility rather than the facility supporting the work they are trying to do. I also think that for the people who are residents for the period of time they are there, I think about the courageous act that they have taken and the need that they have to rebuild their life and the facility they live in should reinforce that sense of hopefulness and positive development and frankly I don't think that it does. I worry about their safety, not to mention and I found it depressing. I urge you to support their efforts and to help in any way that you can to secure an appropriate facility for the work they do.

Justin Trafton, Resident of the Sixth Ward, Secretary for the Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association, and a Representative for Helena Citizen Council District 6. I attended the tour on Monday. Was impressed by the amount of service and work that comes from the Friendship Center with a limited number of people. I witnessed domestic violence next door and wished I knew more about the Center at that time so I could have turned the people next door to the Center. I have lived in the neighborhood for about 4 years and have watched the changing faces that come by my house from the Center. I've seen the kids that come in and out of it. I've seen some of the women that come in and out of it and I am in full agreement with what everyone has testified to so far that a larger, safer, better building would be a great benefit to our community and would help the fine people who work at the Friendship Center to do their work more efficiently.

Dana Toole is present as a community member today. Has 20 years experience in social work, 15 of those years in Helena. The focus of social work has generally been child welfare. Described a child's experience of domestic violence. There is documented research that children who live in violence and trauma, particularly young children 0-3, have different brain development than children who live without trauma. The families who have taken the courageous move to come to a safe place are arriving with very real barriers about how to solve problems. The children have very specific needs in terms of identified private space, a break from the conflict that they experience on a daily basis and they need a designated place where children can play and have age appropriate activities. None of those things exists at the current Friendship Center facility. The last time at the Center the physical center here provides such challenges that some folks must question if they would have been better off not leaving the violent situation. The Friendship Center's application for this funding has her support. Discussed the interaction between the Center and the Helena public schools. In addition to possible brain development issues where their learning skills are different than a child that lives without violence, children who come from violent situations have to unexpectedly be moved from one school to another in order to protect their physical

safety. Children arrive with the fear and anxiety from the trauma in their life. Difficult to focus on their education they way they need to and often require additional support and help for educators. The calm facility does not exist in the current facility and urged the Commission to support the Friendship Center's application.

Carrie Stewart and her mother, Marlene Rule. In July-August her mother was removed from her home in Missoula from a very bad situation through Adult Protective Services. Ms. Stewart's home was not set up for handicap so the Friendship Center got involved and put her in a hotel because there was no handicap facility for them. Mrs. Rule spent a week to 10 days at the Holiday Express in a handicap room and is now living at the Eagles Manor now. Without the help of the Friendship Center she didn't know what she would have done. Mrs. Rules stated Jean McDale at the Friendship Center has helped her to see she is safe. The both urged the Commission to support the application.

Sheriff Cheryl Liedle. Supports the Friendship Center in all of their activities. There is no crime that is more dangerous or frightening than the crime of domestic violence both for the responders and the victims it is one of the most dangerous situations law enforcement faces and is faced with it numerous times a day in Helena. The Friendship Center is partner in fighting this wave of domestic violence, which is far more violent than in the last few years. Deputies and police officers responding to domestic violence incidents rely heavily on the support of the Friendship Center as a place to take the victims that is safe. This type of partnership in the community is invaluable. The Friendship Center has been inadequate in size. Folks have been put in motels in some instances and some incidents have been so violent that deputies and law enforcement officers need to stay at the motel for the night also. That is not an ideal situation. The need for additional shelter space is extreme. Strongly urged the Commission to support the Friendship Center to adequately provide public safety services to Lewis and Clark County.

Dave Morey, Director of the Office of Public Assistance. Supports the block grant application to expand their facility. OPA is sometimes the first to see a domestic abuse victim. OPA provides economic assistance and food stamps and medical assistance but cannot provide shelter services. The number of referrals has continuously increased during his tenure. Seeking ways to waive restrictions and limits on services for domestic abuse victims. Contributes largely to poverty and the need for welfare assistance. Urged the Commission to support the block grant application.

Mike Henderson, Administrator of Clinical Health for the Lewis and Clark County Health Department has seen victims of domestic violence in home visiting program for high-risk women and their facilities. The victims of domestic violence coming into the program greatly increase a person's risk of a poor outcome of their pregnancy and it greatly increases the child's chances of having learning problems later on in life as has been attested to. Joins with all of the people who have testified in support of this community development block grant and urged the Commission to support the application.

Deputy County Attorney, Mike Menahan, testified on behalf of the county attorney's office in favor of the community development block grant for the Friendship Center. Mr. Menahan prosecutes nearly all of the felony partner family member assaults in Lewis and Clark County and is also on the board of Friendship Center. This is an invaluable resource to our community that provide services to people that really have no other option in the community. It is admirable what they do with the limited resources they have but it would be wonderful if they could develop a larger facility to accommodate more people and a facility that is more comfortable for those people that are in such dire straits that rely on the Friendship Center for those services.

Hearing no other public comments, the public hearing is closed. Commissioner Varone moved to approve the Friendship Center's application of a community development block grant in the amount of \$500,000 to build a secure shelter to provide emergency and transitional housing for victims of sexual and domestic violence and their children and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Tinsley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Varone asked if Jefferson and Broadwater Counties also apply for a CDBG to add to this \$500,000 from each individual county would that not be appropriate for the Friendship Center to contact them?

Sharon Haugen stated she does not know the current status of the housing grants in Jefferson and Broadwater Counties. If they have open grants, they could not apply. The block grant program looks at a number of sources when they rank towards this application. For a \$1.7 million project, even if all three counties could apply, that application would not be as competitive as one that shows all of the partnerships. So, technically they could, but the funding sources identified here and the process it is going through is the best financial competitive package we could put together at this time.

Commissioner Varone stated she was appalled by the conditions that not only staff operates under but also that the victims have to live under. Victims deserve at a minimum facilities that can relieve their anxiety from that situation to be able to receive the kinds of services that these people have been provided and is honored to support this application and wish we could make it more.

Commissioner Tinsley stated as elected representatives it is incumbent upon us to provide to the best of our ability for the general welfare and safety of the public and I can't think of a better sector of the population for us to do that with than this group here. The Friendship Center staff has the hardest job in Helena and in Lewis and Clark County and I am proud to support this application and at least give them a better place to work and give the residents a better place and safer place to stay.

Commissioner Murray applauds the volunteer efforts of Commissioner Tinsley by hauling furniture and the like around the community. You are one of the unsung heroes of the Friendship Center.

The motion to approve the grant application carried unanimously.

Health Department Contract Renewal. Mike Henderson reported on renewal of the Tobacco prevention contract to continue funding through June 30, 2005 with a maximum reimbursement of \$76,000. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Tinsley moved to approve the contract and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Varone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Health Department Contract Renewal. Mike Henderson reported on renewal of the WIC Special Supplemental Nutrition Program in the amount of \$140,716 to continue to provide services. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Varone moved to approve the contract and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Tinsley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Department of Homeland Security Grant Application.** Paul Spengler reported the grant application in the amount of \$374,824 to establish/enhance public-private emergency preparedness program. Comm T moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign. Comm. V seconded the motion and it carried unan.

**2004 Citizens Corps Grant Application.** Paul Spengler reported the grant application in the amount of \$16,984 to train citizens for acts of terrorism, including natural and technological disasters. Raising the preparedness of businesses. Three more classes will be provided, hire a course manager, and hire a part-time county employee to provide assistance for the committee, and public information and outreach materials. No financial match is required. Comm V moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign. Comm. T seconded the motion and it carried unan.

**DPHHS Community Operating Plan & Annual Agreement.** Dave Morey, Director Office of Public Assistance reported hearing public comments on the plan and agreement. The Plan has been re-arranged is shorter, more condensed and easier to read. Dave Morey. Reduced amount of cash assistance caseload. Total caseload has grown. Provide food stamps... 5500 individuals being served. Increase in food stamp cases and family Medicaid services. Comm T moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign. Comm. V seconded the motion and it carried unan.

**Request for a One-Year Extension of Preliminary Plat Approval for the Westview Estates Minor Subdivision #2.** (Applicant, Garry Pistoria, Harry Jacobs, Janet Neumiller) (Planner, Lindsay Morgan) The Commissioners will consider a one-year extension to March 25, 2006. they have exhibited due diligence. Staff recomm approval. Comm V moved to approve and authorize the chair to sign. Comm. T seconded the motion and it carried unan.

Request to Appeal Commission Decision of Denial of Refund of Taxes Paid. Cheryl Green reported Dallas and Marlene Rennerfeldt request the commission to reconsider its decision of July 13, 2004 to refund Solid Waste District fees in the amount of \$425 for a double assessment. According to the Department of Revenue they had their garage and their house as a residence. Two residences were written on their property record card and asked the Commission to deny the refund. Mr. and Mrs. Rennerfeldt were not informed of the meeting of July 13 but are present today and would like to speak regarding the two assessments.

Dallas Rennerfeldt, 5515 Rainbow Drive. In 1986 we moved to Rainbow Drive and into a double garage and lived there for 6 months while the new home was being built. In spring of 1987 we moved into new home. We have lived there for 18 years. In 1999 the assessor came out and said the double garage was a dwelling and in 2004 they came out and said it was not a dwelling. Because of those 5 years we have paid \$425 of double taxes on Scratch Gravel Landfill. They have admitted to the mistake and have corrected the mistake. Their 2005 tax bill has been revised. They feel I should pay for the mistake. I feel I should have a refund coming in the amount of \$425. I am here this morning asking you Commissioners to do the right thing and refund me my \$425. That might seem like not a lot of money to you people, but to me and my wife, it is a lot of money. Because of the 5-year law, which I sure do disagree with, we will be out \$73.00 because we will be paying double taxes for 6 years. Thank you for hearing my side of the story.

Commissioner Tinsley. Did the department of revenue give you any indication why and what the reason was for not changing the status of that garage the first time as opposed to coming back and doing it in 2004. Did they say what their reason was? Did they indicate a reason why they changed the status in 2004?

Mr. Rennerfeldt. I do not know why they changed it. When they came out in 1999 I didn't know they came out. We didn't catch it on the taxes because what they do on the landfill they don't put two landfills, they just put one and they doubled it from 1998 to 1999 and we missed it. I don't know how we missed it, but we did.

Janet Pallister, Assistant Public Works Director. I do not know why the assessment changed between years, so I would have to defer to Cheryl Green's judgment on this and her recommendation to you. I am not aware of why they would have changed the assessment.

Commissioner Murray. Do we need to send this back to the Scratch Gravel Board of Directors. It appears they have not made a recommendation on the appeal or are we going off their first recommendation and acting today?

Cheryl Green stated it did not go in front of the Scratch Gravel Landfill Board. I think with just the double assessment and I of course got the refund form from the Rennerfeldts but as I understand from Mr. Rennerfeldt the garage was a residence in

1986 and that was the last year.

Commissioner Varone. When I read all of the information when this denial took place, I was gone so I paid particular attention to the notes and I want to thank whoever copied down the verbatim minutes of that particular meeting, but that was my question too. All these years it's been considered one dwelling and then someone comes out and looks at a garage and says there's two dwellings there and doesn't even notify or try and contact the owner and then all of a sudden they fix it, it just doesn't make a lot of sense to me either when there is obviously just one residence.

Cheryl Green. I could see being the residence when they moved in there but I didn't realize when they built their house was in '87. From '87 to '99 is quite a bit of difference and then to charge them. I went back a '88 tax bill?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. In '89 we paid \$40, '99 we paid \$80, so it doubled from 89 to \_\_\_?

Cheryl Green. I think I went back to an 88 tax bill and they were being charged for one dwelling. I didn't go back any further and look.

Commissioner Tinsley. In the period of 1999 to 2004, did anybody else live in that garage?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. No.

Commissioner Tinsley. Did you just use it for cars and storage? Or whatever, but it was not a dwelling?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. It is not a dwelling. Let me explain what is in the garage if that is all right?

Commissioner Tinsley. You don't have to as long as it wasn't a dwelling, that's all I want to know. Was anybody living in there?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. No. I looked up the word dwelling in the dictionary and it says "a house."

Commissioner Tinsley. I understand. The question is were there any human beings living in that garage?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. No, just us for 6 months, that's all.

Commissioner Tinsley. In the mid to late 1980s?

Dallas Rennerfeldt. 1986.

Commissioner Tinsley. I made the original motion to deny this. I hesitate to go against

the recommendations from our staff but occasionally I think we need to and I think in this particular instance we've received some facts that indicate to us that there was probably a mistake made and while probably technically we don't have to correct that mistake I think we should in this particular instance and I am willing to make a motion that we do give the Rennerfeldts a refund of \$425.00 for the 5 year period from 1999 to 2003 and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Varone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Resolution Canceling Uncalled Warrants Drawn on US Bank of Helena with a Date of Issuance Between October 24, 2002 and June 30, 2003 from the County Clerk's Office. Nancy Everson reported the resolution shows two warrants in the total amount of \$1,326.48. These were written on the county's old accounting system (New World). The warrants are written off and the proceeds are deposited into the general fund. The county is required by statute to write off after 1 year. Commissioner Varone moved to approve the resolution and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Tinsley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Contract with Facility Improvement Corporation. Janet Pallister reported the contract in the amount of \$5,400 to install environmental controls at the Cooney Home by adjusting the temperature at a main work center instead of individual rooms. The funds are included in FY 05 maintenance budget. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Tinsley moved to approve the contract and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Varone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Public comments on items not mentioned above. None.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.