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Tyler R. Gernant, Missoula County Clerk & Recorder
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City of Missoula Resolution 8413
Missoula County Resolution 2020-020

A JOINT CITY-COUNTY RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT RESOLUTION 6889 AND ESTABLISH A MISSOULA FOOD POLICY ADVISORY BOARD TO PROVIDE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE SECURITY OF MISSOULA'S LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE THAT ENHANCES THE LOCAL ECONOMY, CONNECT FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS TO LOCAL, NUTRITIOUS FOOD, BUILD REGIONAL SELF-RELIANCE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to article II, part II, section 3 of the Montana Constitution, inalienable rights, all persons have certain inalienable rights that include the right to a clean and healthful environment, pursuing life's basic necessities, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways; and,

WHEREAS, it is within the power and responsibilities of local governments in Montana to secure and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the individuals within their respective local government jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula and Missoula County have identified actions related to local food and agriculture that are critical to achieving the goals set forth in adopted planning documents, including the '*Our Missoula'* Growth Policy (2015), the Missoula County Growth Policy (2016) and its Land Use Element (2019), and *the Climate Ready Missoula* climate resiliency plan (2020, pending adoption); and,

WHEREAS, projected climate impacts highlight numerous vulnerabilities related to local agriculture, in addition to vulnerabilities related to the global food system, and therefore building resiliency will require strategies to support local agricultural producers, as well as increase the productivity of local agriculture and expand distribution of local food; and,

WHEREAS, a healthy agricultural sector is essential to the well-being of our community due to benefits such as food security, open space, wildlife habitat, economic activity, health promotion and quality of life, and is integral to the long-term security of our food system; and,

WHEREAS, Missoula County is losing many of its working farms and ranches due to problems associated with low economic returns from agriculture, pressures from development, and access to affordable agricultural land; at the same time, new economic opportunities have been created in the food system, such as growth in direct and intermediary markets for local food; and,

WHEREAS, a major challenge in rebuilding our local food system is devising strategies to address the need for farmers and ranchers to earn a fair price for their products while maintaining consumer affordability; and,

WHEREAS, greater availability and access to high quality, sustainably and locally produced foods contributes to improved health outcomes for Missoula County residents and promotes ecologically sound agricultural practices that preserve the health of local ecosystems over the long term; and,

WHEREAS, cost of living issues, specifically low wages and the high cost of housing, pose significant barriers to accessing healthy, nutritious foods for low-income individuals and their families; emergency food providers see an ever-increasing need for their services; and government food assistance programs remain underutilized; and,

WHEREAS, six out of 10 adults in the United States have a chronic disease; increased access to healthy food can help people manage diet-related diseases and prevent complications; area hospitals are increasingly experimenting with prescriptions for nutritious foods; and,

WHEREAS, there are a variety of Missoula County community partners, organizations and agencies that work on various issues regarding food and farming in Missoula County; no existing entity takes a holistic policy-oriented approach to solving these issues locally.

WHEREAS, the City Council, Mayor and County Commissioners committed in joint Resolution 6889 to establish a food policy advisory committee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula City Council and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners hereby establish a Food Policy Advisory Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board shall become effective after passage by the majority of the Missoula City Council, Mayor, and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners and shall continue unless terminated by the City Council, Mayor and commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missoula City Council and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners shall each appoint from their respective governing body membership a City Council member and a county commissioner to serve as non-voting members on the Food Policy Advisory Board.

Section 1. Membership

A) The board will consist of seven voting members; three appointed by the commissioners, two appointed by the City Council, one appointed by the Mayor, and one appointed by the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition. In addition, there will be two alternate, members who serve on the board and vote in the absence of a regular member. One alternate shall be appointed by the commissioners and one shall be appointed by the City Council. The County's member shall be the first alternate and the City's alternate shall be the second alternate. The first alternate shall be called to vote first in the event of an absence or vacancy. The second alternate shall be called to in absence or vacancy of two regular members or in the event the first alternate is not available.

B) For the first year, members shall be appointed in a staggered manner: one-third for a one-year term, one-third for a two-year term, and one-third for a three-year term. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for a term of three years, beginning on Jan. 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, and expiring on Dec. 31.

C) In the event of a member's inability to serve or resignation, the appropriate appointing body shall appoint another person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

D) The appointing bodies may consider candidates who represent or specialize in these suggested areas: local agricultural producers; retail food outlet (specifically a retail grocery and/or a local restaurant); educational institutions; emergency food providers; a nongovernmental organization or researcher working in the area of health, nutrition or medical care; nongovernmental organization or researcher working in the area of local food systems and/or sustainable agriculture; a Missoula city/county established farmer's market; a food-related, non-farm business; the youth community and other related fields of expertise required to accomplish the purpose of the advisory board.

E) Missoula County Community and Planning Services will provide administrative support to the Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board.

F) The Community Food and Agriculture Coalition member will provide professional services support for the board. The board can invite staff/subject matter experts to attend Food Policy Advisory Board meetings as needed.

G) The board will select its own chairperson annually and adopt its own bylaws.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities (Charge)

The Food and Policy Board will advise elected officials on policy initiatives to support the following:

1) Increased access to affordable, nutritious and safe food for all Missoula city and county residents.
2) Enrollment in nutrition assistance programs to those who qualify.
3) The sustainability of human and natural resources necessary for agriculture (including agricultural land, important breeds/cultivars, water, skilled labor, capital and markets).
4) Development of small to mid-sized businesses in the food and farming sectors.
5) Strong, vibrant local food systems in Missoula city and county.
6) Make recommendation on state and federal policies

A) Coordinate and collaborate with existing programs within Missoula city/county, as well other county and state regional food policy organizations.

B) Bring to the attention of Missoula County and the City of Missoula new programs and opportunities related to food and farming.

The Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board shall serve as an advisory board and has no authority to take official action on behalf of the City Council, the Mayor, and the County Commissioners.

Section 3. Meetings
The first meeting for the Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board shall be held in the spring of 2020. Meetings shall be held monthly during business hours. They must open to the public, follow Montana open meeting and public participation laws, and minutes shall be recorded within 30 days of board approval and made available to the public.

Section 4. Report
The Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board shall prepare an annual report for the City Council, the Mayor the County Commissioners and the public on the progress and successes related to its purpose, duties and responsibilities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Missoula THIS 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

PASSED AND ADOPTED by Missoula County THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

ATTEST: MISSOULA COUNTY

Tyler Gernant, Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Josh Slotnick, Chair

Dave Strohmaier, Commissioner

Juanita Vero, Commissioner

ATTEST: CITY OF MISSOULA

/s/ Martha L. Rehbein

Martha L. Rehbein, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED:

/s/ John Engen

John Engen, Mayor