

MINUTES for Study Commission Meeting on March 6th, 2025, 6pm, Town Hall

Present: Doris Fischer, Chairperson, Ralph Sand, and Tamara Todd, Ex officio/Secretary. Public: Cat McCrea, Tuesday Clark (both online).

Absent: Claire Leonard.

The Study Commission meeting opened at 6:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the February 5th, 2025, meeting were presented. Ralph Sand moved to approve the February 5th minutes as published; Doris Fischer seconded the motion; voted unanimously.

Public comments: the online audience had no comment, other than they were able to hear and see us.

Reports: Chair Doris had spoken to Ashley Kent from the MSU LGC regarding an educational session for the SC and a community forum for all. She also contacted The Madisonian relative to publications. She received the email of Mati Bishop, a new reporter for the local newspaper. Doris also had a visit with a potential candidate for the SC. The Madison County Clerk & Recorder advised Doris of the voting results for government review from May 2024 election: total voters = 235; 123 (52%) voted for a review of Sheridan's local government; 84 (36%) against a review; 27 (11.5%) abstained; one voted both ways, so does not count. Ralph Sand had nothing to report. Tammy Todd was approached by Dustin Tetrault, who is on the government review for Madison County; he is interested in the two groups getting together for discussion and collaboration.

Unfinished Business: A. Public education, outreach, and input strategies: 1. The SC timetable publication is to be submitted on March 10th. 2. The draft press release per M. Bishop, Reporter, and an advertisement for the open position on the SC per MCA 7-3-172 purpose will also be submitted. Discussion was held. Ralph Sand moved to submit the SC timetable, the press release, and the advertisement for the vacant seat to The Madisonian for publication next week; Doris seconded; motion carried with two aye votes. Public comment provided, "Gratitude for following meeting protocol." 3. A Letter to our Sheridan neighbors was recommended to notify town residents. Utility addresses may be used with the assistance of the Town Clerk. The same correspondence will appear as a flyer in the Ruby Valley Nugget. Discussion was held, including contact information, encouraging ex parte communication, and public input and participation. Public comment emphasized "the importance of public participation." Ralph Sand made a motion to approve the community correspondence letter as modified to be mailed to utility addresses and as a flyer in the RV Nugget; Doris Fischer seconded; unanimous vote.

B. MSU LGC consultation and community education work session: Ashley Kent has agreed to meet with the SC on Monday, April 28th, from 4 to 5:15 pm at Town Hall. This will be followed by a Community Forum from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Sheridan Senior Center. Discussion and planning included power point presentation, flip charts, room setup, and advertisements and posters in town.

C. 1. The Zoom feature seems to be working for this meeting. Further investigation of the technologies available to us continues to be worth pursuing. 2. Doris informed that the SC is autonomous from the Town Council/Mayor. The SC purpose is to study the current form of government, study other potential forms of government, and to present to the Town Council any recommended change, or not, to the local government. A public question concerned the idea of this process being a means of removing local officials; the corresponding response is that no it is not. The purpose of this process is to review, study, and recommend the form of local government and its' potential services, as outlined in MCA. Cat McRae advised that the public attendance listing is voluntary and is to be voluntary at all public meetings.

New Business: A. Doris presented a Resignation Letter from Claire Leonard. Ralph Sand moved to accept Claire Leonard's resignation, dated 02-21-2015, with our regret; Doris Fischer seconded the motion; motion carried with two aye votes. B. The vacant SC seat: the potentially interested candidate declined today, so the position remains open. Discussion was held. Ralph moved to submit an advertisement for the SC position in the Madisonian for one week, and to place notices around Town; seconded by Doris; unanimous vote. C. Discussion was held regarding a Survey: Why did the voters vote yes for a government review? What is the purpose of the SC? What are the forms of government? What changes are recommended if any? Public comment: emphasis on positives; the value to community of public participation; there is positive value in surveys. The SC feels they need to gather more information and knowledge.

The **next meeting** will be **April 3rd, 2025, 6 pm, at Town Hall.**

Ralph moved the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Tamara Todd, Ex officio