



Contact: Jason Karp
Telephone: 406.388.3760
Email: belgradeplanning@cityofbelgrade.net

Press Release
For Immediate Release
June 23, 2020

Be Heard Belgrade Public Engagement Website Launches

Community members invited to participate in local planning efforts

Belgrade, Montana - Beginning today, community members are invited to participate in an online public engagement effort called "Be Heard Belgrade". The website was created to encourage the public to participate in two planning projects currently underway in the Belgrade area. The creation of a Belgrade Area Zoning Regulation will extend zoning to areas bordering the city of Belgrade and the Downtown Design Plan will create a vision that will contribute to revitalizing Belgrade's commercial center. The City of Belgrade has contracted with Cushing Terrell for both projects.

beheardbelgrade.com is a tool designed to make it easy for people to follow projects, get involved, participate in decisions and provide ideas and feedback to the City of Belgrade. The website will hold background information, project updates and invite participation through interactive tools like surveys and tagging a map with ideas. Beheardbelgrade.com will be active and updated for the duration of both projects through the end of the year.

The Belgrade Planning Area has been around since the 1970's and the discussion about how to zone the area is not new. After Belgrade successfully adopted a new growth policy earlier this year, the creation of a Belgrade Planning Area Zoning Regulation was once again acknowledged as a priority. While the City will lead the planning effort, because they share jurisdiction over the area, they will collaborate with Gallatin County throughout the planning process.

In 2017, the City of Belgrade created an Urban Renewal District (URD) to revitalize the city's commercial center through investment in public infrastructure, retention and recruitment of business, and leveraging private and public capital. Revitalization efforts in the commercial center, including the downtown core, were also recommended in the new Growth Policy. Through the creation of the Design Plan the city will formulate a vision for the URD which will help guide and prioritize projects like enhanced streetscapes and other public improvements.

Each project will need as much community input as possible to identify what matters most to residents. To learn more about these projects, receive updates and to participate in the conversation, please visit Beheardbelgrade.com or follow the project progress on Facebook or Instagram on the Be Heard Belgrade project pages.

For more information contact the City of Belgrade Planning Department office at 91 East Central Avenue or 406.388.3760.

(end)