LIVINGSTON URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES | AUGUST 25, 2026

A regular meeting of the Livingston Urban Renewal Agency was held August 25, 2026, in the Community Room of the City/County Complex at 414 E. Callender Street. Board Member Matt Whitman facilitated the meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Matt Whitman (acting as Chair), Chris Raley, Chad Johnson and Julie Evans. Absent: Chair Melissa Nootz and Vice-Chair Sarah Knoebl. Staff present: Jennifer Severson, Planning Director. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 23, 2026 Regular Meeting. No corrections were requested. Raley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Evans. Motion passed 3-0. Johnson did not vote because he was not present at the June 23 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Façade Repair Grant Application, 109 S. Main Street, Mordam Art

Planning Director Severson presented a request for a Façade Repair and Renovation Grant to replace the damaged storefront awning at Mordam Art. The proposed replacement would retain the existing awning style with updated fabric. Severson stated that she had reviewed the proposal for compatibility with the historic character of the building and had received permission from the property owner. The adjacent Pinky's storefront awning was not included because it did not require replacement.

The estimated project cost was $5,709. The applicant requested up to $2,855 through the façade grant program, which provides reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible project costs, up to $100,000. Board members discussed the proposed fabric, the historic review process and whether multiple contractor bids should be required. Severson explained that the program guidelines reference multiple bids, but that the practice had not been consistently applied, particularly for specialized work. She indicated that application requirements and procedures would be reviewed for clarity and consistency.

Representatives of Mordam Art arrived during the discussion and confirmed that the request was for replacement of the awning fabric. Raley moved to approve a façade repair and renovation grant award of up to $2,855 for the awning at 109 S. Main Street, seconded by Evans. Motion passed 4-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No general public comments were received.

6. BOARD COMMENTS

Severson provided an update on the upcoming URA Plan revision and her discussions with Brianne Downey, who is expected to assist the URA board as a consultant. She discussed holding a board listening session or kickoff workshop to identify priorities, potentially extending the regular fourth-Tuesday meeting time. Severson also proposed sharing background materials through Dropbox, including the current URA plan, grant program information, the Downtown Master Plan and examples of projects undertaken by other Montana urban renewal agencies. Board members expressed support for receiving the materials. A board member welcomed Johnson to the URA board.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Evans. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.