LIVINGSTON URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES | SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

A regular meeting of the Livingston Urban Renewal Agency was held September 22, 2026, in the Community Room of the City/County Complex at 414 E. Callender Street. Chair Melissa Nootz facilitated the meeting.

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 25, 2026 meeting minutes were not included in the packet; they will be presented for approval at the October board meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Downtown Enhancement Grant Application, Joe Wayne Art, Near 115 E. Callender Street

Planning Director Severson presented a request grant funds for two public sculptures by Joe Wayne near 115 E. Callender Street. The proposed grant would reimburse up to 75% of eligible installation and insurance expenses, with the artist responsible for the balance. The City requires insurance for art placed in the public right-of-way, and the grant request included insurance coverage for the sculptures for five years. The proposed location in the public right-of-way was approved by Public Works.

The artist explained that the sculptures would remain on display if additional castings were sold. Board members discussed insurance renewals, the duration of the display, and the value of public art downtown. Public comment supported the proposal. Whitman moved to approve a Downtown Enhancement Grant of up to $2,798 for installation and insurance of the sculptures, seconded by Knoebl. Motion passed 6-0.

B. Park County Letter of Interest and Partnership Opportunity

Whitman recused himself because of his employment with Park County. Johnson disclosed Livingston Public Schools' potential interest in vacant buildings and remained for the initial discussion; he later spoke during public comment in a non-board capacity.

Park County Health Department Director Travis Horton outlined a preliminary proposal for the URA to acquire the former Livingston Enterprise building and transfer it to the County, with the County transferring its former Northwestern Energy property at 222 S. B Street to the URA for potential redevelopment. Severson reviewed the Downtown Master Plan's identification of both sites as redevelopment opportunities and the permissible uses of tax increment financing.

Board members discussed the difference in the properties' estimated values, possible funding sources, tax implications of government ownership, the URA district's remaining term, the County's space needs, and the absence of financial modeling for redevelopment of the B

Street property. Public comments addressed alternative uses, tax impacts, and educational opportunities. Johnson described the School District's interest in space for vocational and other educational programs.

Nootz, Knoebl, Raley and Evans expressed that the URA should not pursue a partnership with the County or School District at this time. Members preferred to evaluate potential partnerships and investment priorities during the upcoming URA Plan update. No motion was made or action taken.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Mackey expressed concern about declining bird and other wildlife populations around Sacajawea Park and encouraged efforts to improve wildlife habitat.

6. BOARD COMMENTS

Board members discussed opportunities for the URA to encourage public art, including soliciting proposals or developing a mural program. Staff suggested considering these ideas during the URA Plan update. No action was taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Knoebl moved to adjourn, seconded by Whitman. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.