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Master plan in the works for downtown Livingston

Sean Batura Enterprise Staff Writer

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A master plan for downtown Livingston is in the works.

John Carroll/Enterprise

The Livingston City Commission will meet Friday to consider approving a contract for the 2023 Downtown Master Plan process.

The contract, which wasn't immediately available for publication, would be between the city and Colorado-based Crescendo Planning + Design.

The budget for the project is \$85,000 and funding sources include a Montana Main Street Program Grant and a "Local Organization Grant," according to an April 28 addendum to the city's request for proposals.

“This Downtown Master Plan will be the first comprehensive downtown area plan of its kind for Livingston,” reads the addendum. “The City last undertook a planning effort focused on the downtown area more than two decades ago that is not considered relevant to, and should not be used to inform, current planning efforts.”

Whoever is chosen for the project should focus on “identifying and building a broad coalition of supporters with diverse interests who will work toward common goals,” and the project’s success depends on “inclusivity and the integration of multiple perspectives,” according to the city’s request for proposals, a 21-page document that can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/xvz48kp9>.

“The community should be engaged in the planning process, including, but not limited to, business owners, residents, employees of downtown businesses, the arts community, historic preservation groups, recreation enthusiasts, and economic development organizations among others,” reads the request for proposals, or RFP. “Outreach should strive to engage members of the community with diverse interests, including those who live/work/own property both inside and outside the project area.”

The success of the Livingston Downtown Master Plan also will rely on an open and inclusive public process that engages diverse sectors of the community, according to the RFP.

“One of the challenges will be integrating and involving disengaged groups and constituents who have an interest in the area or can provide meaningful input, but do not typically participate in public planning processes,” reads the RFP. “This may involve assembling small, focused interest groups to foster creativity and candid insights. The consultant team will be tasked with implementing innovative and effective public participation strategies to capture input from diverse sectors of the community at key points in the process, as well as utilizing creative ideas for obtaining public input outside of formal public meetings and surveys.”

The city’s planning director will be responsible for managing whoever is hired and overseeing the planning process for the city, according to the addendum.

“Staff anticipates the Planning Board will be involved in draft review of the Plan later in the process,” reads the addendum. “The City Commission is responsible for final plan adoption. Other advisory roles will be determined by City Staff once a consultant is selected.”

Wayfinding Plan, Housing and Parking Study

The consultant may also be tasked with developing a Wayfinding Plan, but there was no budget for that as of the addendum date. Additionally, the city may also task the consultant with conducting a housing and parking study.

“Dependent on funding, a combined Housing and Parking Study is requested that identifies vacant/underutilized housing units in the project area, particularly abandoned upper floor units above ground floor commercial spaces,” reads the addendum. “Parking must be evaluated for existing needs and availability as well as for future needs based on the results of the housing study to ensure there will be adequate parking for additional future residential units and commercial uses in the project area. This combined Housing and Parking Study is intended to be a more detailed analysis of current downtown conditions than previous parking and space utilization studies completed for the project area.”

Bidder information

The principal/founder of Crescendo Planning + Design is Colorado resident Andy Rutz, who has more than 15 years professional experience in urban design, architecture & urban planning, according to the firm’s website.

“He has worked extensively in both the public and private sectors, which gives him a unique perspective that helps in fostering successful collaboration between both sides,” reads the website. “As a designer, Andy’s passion is rooted in bringing tangible, physical change and improvement to the communities in which he works.”

Also on the Commission’s Friday agenda is public comment on any matter of relevance to city government; city manager comments and city commissioner comments.



Livingston Downtown Master Plan

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