

**received**  
8-10-10

**SUBJECT: WB-2 Zone Text Amendments**

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

Thank you for voting last week to continue the discussion about the controversial text amendments to the WB-2 zoning district. The public hearing indicated that downtown merchants and the public are overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed text amendments. The board of the Heart of Whitefish would also like to reiterate our unanimous opposition to the text amendments.

We believe the proposed changes will have very long-term impacts on the health of downtown and the character of Whitefish; therefore, changes should not be considered on a short-term basis. We request the council to further delay any decisions regarding text amendments to the WB-2, and instead focus on the more critical issue of enforcing the existing zoning.

Based on the public hearing, it was stated loud-and-clear that this is an issue the downtown merchants and the public care about. There will not be sufficient time for the public to comment on any changes the planning staff might make to the proposed text amendments. In fact, the deadline for submissions to the council packet is (2) days PRIOR to the public's first opportunity to review draft changes.

This issue is too important and there is too much at stake to rush in to any changes. It is also the busiest time of the year for all of our merchants- both downtown and on the strip. Please vote to delay ANY text amendments to the WB-2 zone and instead focus on the real issue at hand- enforcement of the existing zoning.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heart of Whitefish Board

*Ian Collins, Rhonda Fitzgerald, Marilyn Nelson, Pat Carloss, John Kramer, Chris Schustrom, Gary Stephens, Nancy Svennungsen,*