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City of McCall

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle Groenevelt Honored with the Carol Thomas Award for Small Town and Rural Planner

McCall, Idaho – March 26, 2024 – Michelle Groenevelt, Community & Economic Development Director for the City of McCall, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Carol Thomas Award for Small Town and Rural Planner. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and contributions to planning in their community. The award is made by the Small Town and Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association.

Groenevelt's remarkable journey in public service and urban planning spans nearly two decades, during which she has spearheaded transformative projects and initiatives benefiting the City of McCall and its residents.

Starting as the City Planner in September 2005, Groenevelt quickly rose through the ranks, assuming roles such as Planning Manager and eventually landing her current position as Community & Economic Development Director, a position she has held since July 2008.

Throughout her tenure, Groenevelt has been instrumental in leading numerous master planning efforts, managing projects, and building a talented team of professionals in planning, building, grant writing, and GIS. Her dedication to excellence and innovative approach to planning have resulted in several major accomplishments.

Some of Groenevelt's notable achievements include:

Leading the 2006 City Code Rewrite

Overseeing the development of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan

Guiding the creation of the award-winning 2014 Downtown Master Plan

Spearheading the McCall In Motion Comprehensive Plan in 2018, which included a Transportation Master Plan, Housing Strategy, and Water Master Plan

Crafting the Local Housing Strategy in 2018 and the Local Housing Action Plan in 2022

Groenevelt's commitment to excellence and dedication to her community have not gone unnoticed. Her work has received recognition from esteemed organizations such as the Idaho American Planning Association (APA) and Idaho Smart Growth, including awards such as the Idaho APA Outstanding Plan

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Award, Idaho Smart Growth Public Policy and Planning Award, Idaho APA Public Outreach Award, Idaho Smart Growth Grow Smart Award, and the Idaho APA Gem Award. Additionally, she was honored with the American Planning Association STaR Merit Award in 2022.

The Carol Thomas Award for Small Town and Rural Planner further acknowledges Groenevelt's outstanding contributions to planning in McCall, Idaho, and her exemplary leadership in fostering sustainable development, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and engaging the community in the planning process.

"Michelle Groenevelt's relentless dedication and innovative vision have profoundly impacted the City of McCall," said City Manager Anete Spickard. "Her commitment to excellence and passion for community development make her a deserving recipient of the Carol Thomas Award. We are incredibly proud of Michelle's accomplishments and grateful for her invaluable contributions to our city."

Please join us in congratulating Michelle Groenevelt on this well-deserved honor.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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