

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood General Meeting Draft Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Missoula Public Library, Cooper Room A

5:30 Pizza & socializing

6:00 Introduction by Peter Lesica, Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team (LRLT)

- 1) There were about 60 neighbors and presenters in attendance.
- 2) There were no minutes to approve
- 3) Kalina Pritchard held elections for LRLT members. The following people were elected: Peter Lesica, Joan Bessac-Steelquist, Gracie Sanford, Marta Meengs, Robert Shultz, Kathy Tonnessen and Bradley Layton
- 4) Emily Glukin gave a presentation on the **Our Missoula 2045 Land Use Plan**. The final draft version of the plan is still available for comment. There will be a public hearing on the plan by the City Council on December 9, 2024 at 6pm. For more information go to <https://www.engagemissoula.com/our-missoula>
- 5) Peter Lesica read a submission provided by Bob Giordano, chair of the Upper/Lower Rattlesnake transportation committee. They will have a meeting on December 2, 2024 to discuss issues of transportation and trail/road safety in the Valley. Anyone can join the listserve for periodic updates by contacting rattlesnaketransportation@missoula-neighborhoods.org
- 6) Nancy Heil gave an update on the Rattlesnake Watershed Group. They have sponsored a series of presentations at the Library on “Rattlesnake Stories”. There was a sign-up sheet to get their monthly newsletter: <https://www.rattlesnakecreekwatershedgroup.org>
- 7) Elaine Shea and Nancy Herndon from the “Friends of Prescott School” group reported on their meeting with the superintendent of MCPS. There is an MCPS committee looking into the status of all vacant schools buildings in Missoula County. There is no decision yet on the status of Prescott. This year the MCPS installed an irrigation system to improve the grounds of the school which is used by the public. Instances of vandalism are no longer issues due to the installation of a sensor inside the school that alerts the police.
- 8) Robert Shultz reported on progress on the railroad quiet zone issue at the Madison Street and Taylor Street crossings. Eric Melson, Ward 1 rep, has gotten this project moved into the top ten public works projects. This means that city staff can apply for funds from the Federal government and others.
- 9) Mike Sharp and Peter Whitney of Missoula Parks and Rec did a quick run through of activities on parks and conservation lands in the Rattlesnake Valley. They emphasized the volunteer work on the conservation lands by local citizens, and

reported on a new “junior elk-spotter” project with students at the Rattlesnake school. The Big News is that a two-vault restroom will be installed in 2025 near the Greenough Park Picnic Shelter. They have continued weed treatments, have installed more bear canisters and are doing some fuels management in the Lower Rattlesnake. Renovation at Moon-Randolph Ranch is a top priority.

- 10) Q&A with Jennifer Savage, Eric Melson (Ward 1 reps): Many current concerns were discussed and questions posed. Campers under the freeway overpasses (MDOT property) were noted; the City Council will be revisiting the camping ordinance at their next meeting. Some neighbors wanted to see action on repairing the historic wall along Rattlesnake Creek, under the over pass. A neighbor noted that the east side of Sergeant Gregory Park has a sidewalk in need of repair.
- 11) There was a move to end the meeting at 7:50pm