

**Lower Rattlesnake
Neighborhood General Meeting
Draft Minutes**

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, Missoula Public Library, Cooper Room A, 5:30p-7:45p

5:30 Pizza & socializing

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

- 1) There were more than 100 neighbors and presenters in attendance.
- 2) There were no minutes to approve.
- 3) Kalina Pritchard held elections for new LRLT members. The following people were elected: Allie Slater, Cody Bodman
- 4) Eran Pehan, City of Missoula, gave a presentation on the *Our Missoula* Code Reform. She gave out a handout and noted that on November 5, 2025, 4:30-7:00p, there will be an Open House at the Missoula Public Library on the next steps in zoning reform.
- 5) Bob Giordano, chair of the Upper/Lower Rattlesnake transportation committee gave an update on their activities. They will have a meeting on November 10, 2025 at the Blackfoot Room in the Missoula Public Library. All are invited.
- 6) Nancy Heil gave an update on the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group. They are sponsoring a talk on November 9, 2025 at the 2p at the Missoula Public Library on the topic of removal of dams in the Rattlesnake. She also noted that the Watershed Group will submit a proposal to the Missoula Neighborhood's Energizer Grants Program to add signs in Greenough Park as part of the Bolle Bird Trail.
- 7) Peter Whitney of Missoula Parks and Rec described activities on parks and conservation lands in the Rattlesnake Valley. The elk are back on Mount Jumbo and the mountain will be "closed" on December 1, 2025. The two-vault toilet near the Greenough Park Shelter will be installed in November 2025, and then locked until spring 2026. They have continued weed treatments, have installed more bear canisters and are doing some fuels management on the Conservation Lands. There is a Visitor Use Study of North Hills trails, using trail cameras. This week they are starting work on trailhead parking at the end of Duncan Drive.
- 8) Kate Dinsmore, WGM Group, outlined the MCPS Properties Plan, which includes Prescott School and two "open land" parcels in the Upper Rattlesnake (one is the PEAS farm). There are still opportunities for the public to comment at School Board meetings in Nov-Dec 2025. Elaine Shea announced that there is a group of neighbors near Prescott that are meeting to come up with alternatives for the Prescott property.
- 9) Eric Melson, Ward 1 rep, mentioned that \$6000 neighborhood grants are available for small projects and urged people to apply for funding. He then turned the mic over to Jeremy Keene, Public Works, to discuss progress on train horn quiet zones. He said that BNSF would allow the City to spend about \$910K dollars to place a wayside

horn at the Madison Street crossing and new “arms” at the private Taylor Street crossing. There will be a survey distributed to see if neighbors are willing to form a Special Improvement District to pay for these upgrades. The survey will be available at *Engage Missoula* and will be sent out in the mail during the period of November 10 to December 5, 2025. For more information, go to:

<https://www.engagemissoula.com/railroad-quiet-zone>

- 10) Lucas Moody and Betsy Craske, candidates for City Council for Ward 1, introduced themselves.
- 11) Non-agenda item: Jim Sadler announced that he had “no zoning” yard signs that he could give out after the meeting.
- 12) There was a move to adjourn at 7:35p.