

FARVIEWS-PATTEE CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
General Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2006
Community Room - UM's Lewis and Clark Village, 3000 S Higgins
Ray Aten, Moderator

I. Welcome, Call to Order, and Attendance:

Ray Aten called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. He requested that all sign the attendance sheet on the table by the entrance.

II. Introductions:

Ray introduced the leadership team and asked elected officials and candidates to introduce themselves. Jerry Ballas introduced himself and indicated he would like to hear the concerns of any and all. Ron Erikson, running for Montana House district 93, introduced himself and encouraged neighbors to review the County local government study recommendations. The group was small so Ray asked all to introduce themselves.

III. Presentations:

Dark Sky / Lighting Ordinance: Lou Ann Crowley and Chris Hager presented their work on developing a lighting ordinance. Its purpose is to save energy and improve the way lighting is used to illuminate important areas. She answered questions about City and Street Lighting and standards for homes in new sub-divisions.

Weed Control: Morgan Valiant, County Weed Management Coordinator, talked about weed identification, weed infestation, and weed control. He stressed that you need to know what plants you want to replace the weeds and noted that leafy spurge, spotted knap weed, and cheat grass are the major noxious weeds. He also addressed yellow flag iris that is invading Pattee Creek.

IV. Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2006 and July 19, 2006:

Dean Hendrix moved for acceptance of the June and July minutes. Marcia Bishop seconded the motion. **The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

V. F-PC Neighborhood Council Account Balance and Expenditure Report:

Ray reported that the new balance should be available at the next Community Forum meeting and that Community Forum granted our neighborhood council a small project grant to cover the previous deficit.

VI. Old Business:

Pattee Creek-Higgins Corner Reclamation and Beautification Project: Dean Hendrix gave an update. The University is responsible for the area and Marilyn Mahler, as noxious weed officer, would like to clear the area and replace it with native plants. She sees it as a long-term project and welcomes cooperation from the neighborhood. The pond fence must remain for security reasons. There have been several successful weed pulls that have included University students as well

as volunteers from the neighborhood. The next pull is scheduled for October 5th at 5pm.

Rezoning Parks: Jerry Ballas reported that rezoning all City Parks is a low priority since the City is presently dealing with State mandated zoning changes.

VII. New Business:

Parks Committee Report and Recommendations: James Pool reported that the first meeting of the Park committee was a walking survey of the parks in Farviews. The committee found that many access easement have become “privatized”, most likely due to lack of knowledge by the adjacent owners. Weeds were also prevalent in most parks. The committee is now setting priorities. Weeds, access, and connectivity are all on the table. Jerry Ballas asked whether a trail system was being considered. He said he would be supportive of exploring this possibility and that feasibility grants were available. He encouraged face to face discussion with any neighbors that have blocked access to a park and cease and desist orders from the City as a last resort.

Candidates Forum: Ray Aten reported that it is not likely. There has been no interest expressed by the Lewis and Clark neighborhood council.

VIII. Public Comment:

James Pool announced that it is National Safe Routes to School month. Lewis and Clark school parents are planning on talking to neighbors along the routes.

James also announced that Jeremy Keene, who was working on the Pattee Canyon Drive traffic calming project, has moved. The neighbors did meet with Phil Smith. Phil reported that the speeds were not that high. The city is considering street narrowing and stripping for traffic calming.

IX. Reports:

City Council and Parks and Recreation's Sale of a portion of High Park: Jerry Ballas read a communication from Jackie Corday. Negotiations on the trail location are ongoing. The Dvoraks are amenable to the trail crossing the dam and using the original easement. There may be some money available for benches. Jerry left Jackie's communication with Ray.

X. Announcements:

Sub-division of large lots: Ray reported that there are several instances in Farviews=Pattee Canyon of lots that are large enough to be divided into two lots.

XI. Adjourn and Cleanup:

Marcia Bishop moved for adjournment. Mary Barnett seconded the motion. **The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.** The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Aten