

Minutes

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Meeting.....October 1, 2009

7:00pm.. Meeting called to order by Mary Louise Zapp Knapp

Dom Sims was nominated and elected to the Leadership Team. There were 17 members of the council present.

Public comment:

Doug Grimm related that he had recently experienced mail theft and reported it to the police, however, a neighbor found his mail up the street on the ground.

City Council member, Jason Wiener had no announcement, but he encouraged people to call him.

Bob Lucene stated that he was concerned about emergency preparedness as well as the influx of people into the valley.

Community Forum Report:

Don Sims reported that there were hardly enough forum members to make a quorum and he encourage Rattlesnake council members to attend the next meeting on Oct 15, 2009 at 140 W Pine. The forum decided on two goals: more effective communication with the public and greater media coverage. He then referred to Mary Louise who stated that what is needed is an issue people can be passionate about, such as air quality, which involves so many city and other governmental and non-profit agencies.

Fire Safety Committee Report:

Harold Hoem reported on the recent meeting held by Fire Safe Montana along with a number of other agencies. "Stay and defend" policy is now in question, after the recent disaster loss in Australia. Pine beetle kill has added to the danger of fire. Jim Lowery and Mary Louise also attended the meeting. Jim stated that it is time to become really active in the Rattlesnake with a coordinated effort, including environmentalists. Mary Louise spoke of the infestation on her hillside and the availability of grant to help alleviate the problem. After discussion, Mary Louise called for a motion to join Fire Safe Montana. Jan Hoem motioned, Doug Grimm seconded and it carried unanimously. It was agreed to join with a \$30 voting membership.

Mary Louise called for volunteers on a phone committee to update the membership contact list. Patricia Zapp and Caroline Lonski volunteered.

Transportation Committee Report:

Mary Louise reported on the Rattlesnake Transportation Summit meeting held on Aug 25th. Harold Hoem and Caroline Lonski also attended. One outcome was a decision by the leadership team to submit a grant proposal to the Office of Neighborhoods to do a Feasibility Study for a Pedestrian/Bike Trail. The proposal was submitted on Sept. 28th. Motion was made and seconded and membership voted to support this grant proposal.

Doug Grimm alerted people that the intersection at Lolo and Duncan will be disrupted because of a sewer installation.

A lively discussion took place regarding bulb-out on Rattlesnake Drive in front of the school.

Caroline L. wants safety first for the children and can see thing from all sides. Doug Grimm was shocked at this narrowing and considered it extremely unsafe. Harold agreed with Mary Louise that it should be an open, clear and direct bike path for the safety of both autos and bikers. The question was raised on who has the right of way when timing of arrival of bike and car at the bulb-out is simultaneous. Mary Louise witnessed and near impact when a man traveling north on bike and towing a child in a wide carrier, glanced back and entered the car lane in front of the car. Her main concern was for the child. Another comment was that communication between bikers and auto divers is not optimum for this dangerous situation. Jason W. stated that the bulb-out was primarily for the safety of the children. This remains a great safety concern.

Next meeting is tentatively set for Nov 5th if the church is available.

Agenda will be fire Safety and Pine Beetle Management with a panel of experts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Zapp