

**Community Forum Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2010
7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers
Moderator, Nancy McCourt**

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass (Rep)
Emma Dickinson-(River Road) – Mike Hathaway (Rep)
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)
Franklin to the Fort – Absent
Grant Creek – Don Nicholson (Rep)
Heart of Missoula –Bill Flanery (Rep)
Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson (Rep)
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts (Rep)
Northside –Absent
Riverfront – Absent
Rose Park – Nancy McCourt
South 39th – Jeff Stevens (Rep)
Southgate Triangle – Hans Christiansen (Rep)
University District – John Firehammer (Rep)
Upper Rattlesnake – Don Sims (Rep)
Westside – Debbie Saylor (Alt)
City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins
Neighborhood Liaison –Erin Scott

Others Present

Quorum

Quorum is present.

***Adoption of Agenda** (items from consent agenda can be moved to committee reports by any CF rep as deemed necessary at this time). **Mr. Gullickson** moved to approve the agenda. **Mr. Aten** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

***Approval of CF Minutes**

Approve meeting minutes from December 17, 2009. **Unidentified male** moved to approve the minutes. **Unidentified female** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment (non-agenda items from audience)

Dave Strohmaier, City Council Ward 1 representative, thanked everyone here for their service to their neighborhoods and expressed their work is appreciated and noticed. He would like to comment on the cell phone item on the agenda and advise that he has every intention of revisiting the cell phone ban while driving in the near future. He referred to the ordinance passed and vetoed last year. He further stated that scientific data is clear that utilizing a cell phone while driving significantly increases the risk of having a motor vehicle accident. It is not so much the act of holding a cell phone, but what your brain is doing while talking that is distracting; there is some justification that talking on a cell phone while driving is dangerous. He acknowledged that enforcing a cell phone ban is very difficult; someone's lips could be moving due to singing with the radio or talking to themselves, or they could be on a hands free device. Many people are still going to

talk on their cell phone while driving, but having an ordinance requiring talking on a hands free device will sway some from casually picking up the phone while driving. Public support is needed for this to move forward. If this body decides to weigh in one way or another on the issue, it would be welcome. He thanked CF for having this important topic on the agenda.

Mr. Strohmaier expressed his interest and work in re-establishing passenger rail service to Missoula and southern Montana. The congressional delegation needs to hear from people. A homeowners association in Bozeman is deliberating a resolution supporting the return of the North Coast Hiawatha to southern Montana. That might be something this body may want to entertain at a future meeting.

Presentation – Garden Go-fers – Genevieve Jessop Marsh

Cancelled due to personal emergency.

Neighborhood Liaison Report – Erin Scott

Snow Angels Program

A couple neighborhoods have taken on neighbors helping neighbors in shoveling their snow, especially for those who have disabilities or are elderly. Franklin to the Fort NC is interested and Upper Rattlesnake has mentioned it. A press release has been issued on the enforcement of the ordinance; if walks aren't shoveled the city can bill for snow removal. In this release, the program is mentioned and those in need of help or wanting to help can call the Neighborhood Office. There was a meeting to generate ideas of how this program might work. Ideas were to match individuals up with individuals (close in proximity) or match individuals with agencies that could help. The agency concept is being looking into. There are some programs where school kids shovel walks nearby on their lunch hour; this may be a possibility with the school district. It was decided the best solution at this point is to market the concept of neighbors helping neighbors. A city wide marketing campaign with individual neighborhoods thinking of this concept might be effective. The next meeting will be Feb. 23rd, 3:00-4:00 pm, Jack Reidy conference room. Phone number to report unshoveled sidewalks is 552-6345.

Mr. Wilkins thinks this is a great program for the NC's to develop to match neighbors up with neighbors. He has a tractor with a plow and does several blocks in his neighborhood and would be happy to help those nearby. Mr. Nicholson commented it would be good to have resources identified that people could pay to have the service done as well. Mr. Geurts commented that he shares with his neighbor the task of shoveling, whoever gets out there first helps the other and it is a reciprocal thing. Ms. Scott expressed part of the campaign is to raise awareness that whether you rent a home out, or own a home that is not resided in during the winter, there exists the responsibility of having the walk shoveled. Ms. McCourt suggested bringing this topic up next August-September to get NC's lined up and talking about it before the snow falls. She also suggested the campaign include landlord awareness, to have shoveling snow written into their rental agreement. She has provided taking \$10-\$15 a month off the rent in winter as an incentive for tenants to shovel the walk. It would be nice to have tokens of appreciation to offer those 'angels'; maybe NC's could solicit those from area businesses, a cup of coffee for example that could be given to volunteers who participate.

Election judges training opportunity

Election judges are needed to man polling places. Not all of the sites proposed to close are going to be. Reservations for polling judge start February 16, trainings will be March 8-24. There will be 15 sessions and will take place at the fairgrounds. People will be paid \$30 for their time for training and commit to serve for 2-years. The county website www.co.missoula.mt.us elections tab under 'judges' has more information. Ms. Scott will email out some information for folks to share.

Neighborhood Training Series

Ms. Scott proposed having orientation training be more individualized and occur as leadership teams change rather than a three hour session offered one time a year. This would include providing new leadership team members with a packet of information that includes the handbook and a letter welcoming them. The Liaison will then have a one-on-one discussion about the purpose of NC's, the public process, using purchase orders, meeting protocol and available resources. Mr. Christiansen thinks this approach will reach the people that need it the most and offer support and build confidence. Mr. Aten stated the CF leadership team would like to be involved in meeting with volunteers too.

Ms. Scott would like to propose having a full day 'retreat'. This environment allows time to get to know each other and build community. She was thinking of an April timeline to plan accordingly. Ms. Scott provided a list of session ideas for discussion. Ms. McCourt likes the idea of being together for a period of time and suggested having the strategic planning not the last thing of the day in order to contribute fully. Mr. Wilkins likes the idea of a conference and having information booths, often times there are presentations at CF with a lot of information, a booth with information to share with neighborhoods would be helpful. Ms. McCourt would like to take the list of training topics and concept taken to the leadership teams and revisit this idea in February to see who would commit to a day-long session before undertaking the planning for it. Mr. Aten would like to see the opportunity to get more experience and training. He would like to see what leadership team members have to say.

Sign up sheet for 'map your neighborhood' or the 'CERT' training

Ms. Scott passed around the sign-up sheet to determine interest in setting up a future training.

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Project Funds – Erin Scott

An overview of the funded projects was given by those project coordinators present.

- Ms. Snodgrass, on behalf of the Cpt. John Mullan NC, is very happy for funding the design of Pleasant View Park. They are working on setting up the charette meeting.
- Mr. Stevens from the South 39th Street NC reported the award of \$1000 for the Tonkin Trail mutt mitt stations and trail signage. The city will be installing two additional signs with use regulations as well. The NC is delighted to receive this grant.
- Mr. Sims reported that the Upper Rattlesnake grant will fund a feasibility study on connecting bike/ped paths up to the recreation area. The project members are working with the county and forest service to see if there are opportunities to expand the grant and hope to have it completed by the end of the summer.
- Mr. Geurts with Moose Can Gully NC reported the grant for trail improvements for safety and access in the gully will be done in partnership with the Montana Conservation Corp.
- Mr. Hathaway with Emma Dickinson/River Road NC reported the \$1000 grant award for neighborhood improvement will be in the form of public art for a traffic signal box on 3rd/Reserve streets.
- Mr. Flannery with Heart of Missoula reported the grant award for that neighborhood would be public art for three traffic signal boxes.
- Ms. Scott reported that the Missoula Urban Demonstration project received an award for the site design of a Northside community center.

Ms. Scott is setting up a meeting with the committee to discuss the process and create a timeline in the next couple weeks. She stated in this unfortunate economy, decision about how much funding will be appropriated will not be known until July or August. Mr. Christiansen suggested having a disclaimer on the application stating dependent on funds appropriated.

*Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year – Mike Hathaway

Mr. Hathaway reported that the committee received five very high quality applicants: Hans Christiansen (Southgate Triangle), Brian Walter (Grant Creek), Mary Louise Zapp Knapp (Upper Rattlesnake), Lane Reul (Rose Park), and Jeremy Flesch (Emma Dickinson/Orchard Homes, River Road pending). He stated this was a hard decision to make among the tremendous volunteers in the community. This year's award will go to Jeremy Flesch. Mr. Hathaway read a statement from one of the nomination support letters on Jeremy's behalf. He then thanked the committee and those that sent in nominations for their work.

Mr. Stevens moved to approve the committee's recommendation that Jeremy Flesch be awarded the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year. **Mr. Hathaway** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Scott indicated there will be an honoring ceremony of all nominees before City Council, February 22, 2010 at 7pm in City Council Chambers at 140 W Pine.

Marketing – Erin Scott

A list of suggested email addresses were provided for review for each NC to determine what name they would prefer.

An example of the brochure was passed around for review. The cost to produce would be \$510 for 500, \$698 for 1500, \$996 for 3000; that would be around \$40 per NC for 1500. Franklin to the Fort NC suggested leaving the back of the brochure blank allowing for each neighborhood to input their information. The brochures would be used as a marketing tool with allotment to each neighborhood for their use and the office would use them as well. Mr. Wilkins commented that neighborhoods have to do a lot with the budget they have and may not be able to pay for it. He thinks it is a great idea to have the brochures, but how to pay for them is the dilemma. Mr. Aten suggested looking to funds available after the reallocation as means to pay for this. Mr. Stevens commented that South 39th Street NC could pay for a share of the cost. Ms. Scott would like to have the brochure ready for reproduction when the funds are available. The brochure could be a useful tool for advertising NC's and provide substantial information.

Ms. Scott stated that Missoula in Motion does a fantastic job with their marketing and that they are willing to share their marketing plan with her. She would like to produce a two-tier plan to grow from the 'free' tools in use now into brochures and banners; having marketing tools may aid in getting and using grant money as well. Further updates on marketing include the Neighborhood Project Fund video which is almost complete and should air soon and an e-newsletter is pending. Ms. Scott explained the e-news is through Constant Contact, which is a list serve and it could be sent to all members of each NC if they get on the list. The features of the program allow opportunity to unsubscribe at any time, and the system tracks numbers of people opening it, links they go to, and how long the document is open so it provides useful information to determine marketing potential and use. The Office of Neighborhoods will pay for the subscription.

Networking – Ray Aten

The committee has not met therefore no update is available.

New Business

Driving with cell phones – Jeff Stevens

Mr. Stevens thanked Mr. Strohmaier for his public comments earlier this evening, it provided a good overview of what has occurred so far and what is likely to happen in the near future in regards to this topic. Mr. Stevens prepared a proposal for resolution requested that NC's discuss and approve calling for a ban on the use of cell phones while driving. He indicated the process would include recommendations from individual NC's to be sent to CF and then to City Council for consideration. In light of some of the comments made to-

night, he is prepared to make some preliminary amendments. Add 'or biking' to end of first sentence after 'while driving'. Add 'This ban would not apply to hands-free devices' after the first sentence. Discussion, sharing of stories and personal opinions ensued. Mr. Stevens would like this topic to be discussed with neighborhood council's to gather input and see if a resolution may be appropriate when/if the issue comes before City Council again.

Ms. Snodgrass asked if this resolution would be applicable only to cell phones, Mr. Stevens replied yes. Mr. Wilkins shared why he did not vote in favor of the ban; many businesses rely on cell phone use and they were adamantly against the prohibition, if the hands free option would have been in the language, those businesses would have probably been ok with it and so would he. Mr. Aten commented that driving while multi-tasking is equivalent to driving intoxicated. If business people should be allowed to drive in this manner, then they should be allowed to use cell phones; otherwise no one should be using cell phones while driving. Mr. Nicholson agrees with Mr. Aten and shared his experience with operating a hands free unit. With his old mobile, you just had to press a button and it was on speaker, it worked great. When that mobile unit died, his new unit doesn't function as well and he finds it a hazard to use while driving. He further expressed that using a cell phone while driving is dangerous, your vehicle in a split-second can cause a great deal of damage; therefore he would encourage a cell phone ban and that it include bicyclists as well. Many stories and comments were shared about personal responsibility. Ms. Snodgrass has seen the statistics that hands free devices are no less dangerous than hand held; but if the ban will go thru if it includes use of hands free at this point, maybe eventually a full ban on cell phone use while driving will go into effect. Mr. Stevens would like this topic to be discussed with neighborhood council's to gather input and see if a resolution may be appropriate when/if the issue comes before City Council again.

Ongoing Business

Active Transportation Plan Update & Activity – Don Sims & Erin Scott

The previously referred to Non-Motorized Plan has been renamed as the 'Active' Transportation Plan. CF will conduct an exercise and broke into two groups to identify areas in their neighborhood that lacked infrastructure for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. This informational map will be used in the Active Transportation Plan Summary.

City Council Liaison Update-Jon Wilkins

Mr. Wilkins stated that City Engineer's are suggesting putting more turning lanes on Reserve St. and Mullan Rd. at that intersection. This would require removal of the pedestrian islands which concerns him; there is heavy pedestrian/bicycle traffic at this location. There have been several bike/ped vs. car accidents and a death already in that location. He further reported that the city will be in the budgeting process soon and there is a quarterly report due out as well. He said the Mayor has indicated budget constraints are imminent. Mr. Wilkins has been appointed to serve as the council liaison to CF for another year. He shared that he will push through referrals to council no matter the content and if he agrees or disagrees, that is his role, to assist this body in keeping NC's strong.

Ongoing Business

Neighborhood Council Updates

- Captain John Mullan – Pleasant View Park planning has been occupying our time as well as planning a Spring meeting mid-march.
- Emma Dickinson-(River Road) – LT met Jan. 16th to discuss the Milwaukee Trail Connection thru the neighborhood, and the issue of a Homeowner's Association that is concerned with the trail routing. There was representation at a meeting with parks regarding Lafray Park design, hoping for a good playground design at the park. Planning for events in the coming year, we utilize Facebook to get information out. Next LT meeting is Feb. 9th and will be planning a general meeting for March or April.

- Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Knife River held a well-attended community meeting at the Lewis & Clark School regarding developing the gravel pit area. There were a wide range of views of what should or should not be done. The consultant working with Knife River is preparing a proposal, there may be another community meeting in the future to present that.
- Grant Creek – nothing new to report.
- Heart of Missoula –nothing new to report.
- Lewis & Clark – the LT will be meeting next week to plan a general meeting.
- Moose Can Gully – LT will be meeting to plan a general meeting in March.
- Rose Park – had meeting last night where Nancy McCourt was elected as CF Representative with Jenny Daniel as an Alternate. The meeting was celebratory of the process and structure that NC's have with government in this community. City PD talked about the roundabout and how to move around it safely which generated discussion on activist neighbors who pushed and encouraged that roundabout construction and that there have been no significant problems--no accidents and folks are adjusting to it. There was good exchange with a City Council representative in attendance. Working on outreach ideas to reach broader portions of the neighborhood and increase attendance.
- South 39th St.– planning for a meeting late March.
- Southgate Triangle – LT meeting 2nd Weds. of every month, open for anyone to attend. Happy to report that stimulus money will be applied to Boyd Park for playground equipment, hopefully as early as June. The NC is working with Neighborhood Watch folks to generate common interest in the neighborhood.
- University District – nothing new to report.
- Upper Rattlesnake – having a general meeting Feb. 9th at 7PM with an update on the feasibility study grant award and process, the Active Transportation Plan and talking about some new proposed subdivisions in the area.
- Westside – will be having a joint Northside/Westside meeting Feb. 25th 6:30pm at ZACC Zootown Arts Community Center.

Final Business

*Monthly report to City Council – Request to report on non-agenda items

(The monthly report to City Council will be made by the moderator of the meeting. The report made will address all items on the Community Forum agenda for the month. A request for reporting on non-agenda items will occur at Community Forum to ensure pertinent non-agenda are reported as well).

The next CF meeting moderator will be **Mr. Flannery.**

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ross

Christine Ross
Secretary, Office of Neighborhoods

*Copies of any handouts and referenced documents at this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office