

**Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
May 27, 2010 6:00 pm
Moderator, Jeff Stevens**

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass (Rep)
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten (Rep)
Franklin to the Fort – Jon Salmonson (Rep)
Grant Creek – Don Nicholson (Rep)
Heart of Missoula – Absent
Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson (Rep)
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts (Rep)
Northside – Absent
River Road – Mike Hathaway (Rep)
Riverfront – Absent
Rose Park – Absent
South 39th – Jeff Stevens
Southgate Triangle – Eric West
University District – Absent
Upper Rattlesnake – Don Sims
Westside – Absent

City Council Liaison – Absent
Neighborhood Liaison – Erin Scott

OTHERS PRESENT

Marty Rehbein, Dennis Druffel, Jill Blomgren

QUORUM

A Quorum is present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CF MINUTES

Greg Gullickson moved to approve the minutes for April 22, 2010. Don Nicholson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items from the public)

Mike Zack stated he is a volunteer for the abandoned vehicle and the anti-graffiti programs. He said his search for abandoned vehicles has brought his attention to alley ways littered with garbage and debris. He distributed pictured handouts of his findings.

He said there are several solutions to remove debris from alley ways. The easiest option is to hand out fliers to each residence asking them to remove their garbage and debris from the alley; he noted the response may not be productive because landfill costs can be expensive.

He mentioned the Pattee Canyon area seems to be a dumping ground for old television sets, worn out furniture, mattresses and numerous bags of garbage lying off the main road. He and his neighbors have come together as a group to collect and dispose of it through Allied Waste.

Mr. Zack mentioned a few solutions to organize an alley clean up such as organizing a coalition, adopt an alley program, organize an annual alley clean up day or generate police citations.

Mr. Zack stated Allied Waste charges \$165.00 per hour to pick up excess garbage or junk. The fee includes the landfill deposit fee, truck, driver, and one person to load the items. He noted the cost could be lowered by recruiting neighborhood volunteers or community service people to collect the junk and throw it into the back of the truck. Another option is to ask for volunteers to use their personal pickup truck to haul garbage to the landfill. Each alley would take about 5 minutes and within an hour majority of alley ways could be cleared of debris.

Mr. Nicholson replied \$165.00 is reasonable for this kind of project. He asked how many alleys in the city have a lot of waste.

Mr. Zach agreed and mentioned the alley's are not a major problem at this time, but has potential to become one. He noticed the University area has a lot of junk in their alleys and is the worst he has seen.

Mr. Nicholson agrees and supports the project. He suggests using neighborhood council funds to pay for the project and an Allied Waste truck should be involved, or recruit a Boy Scout troop to help.

Unknown suggests giving a free ticket to people who cannot afford to pay for landfill costs.

Mr. Zack said that is a good idea, but funding the tickets could be costly. He said there are piles of rock and bricks that are very heavy, and may cost more.

Mr. Stevens commented some people do not have transportation means to haul the heavy stuff to the landfill.

Mr. Aten asked Mr. Zack if a committee has been created to discuss options, and Mr. Zack said no.

Mr. Stephens asked for public comment not on the agenda.

Marty Rehbein, City Clerk announced the city made some changes to the Office of Neighborhoods and she wanted to inform the leadership team and neighborhoods before they learned about it from the newspaper. She noted the Office of Neighborhoods operates under her authority at the City Clerk office.

The city budget has been tight for a long time and the Mayors office asked to cut costs by 2% and reduce staffing to help with the city's fiscal problems. She announced not happily, the city gave Christine Ross notice that her part time position will not be funded in next year's budget and her position has been terminated, and the two full time positions will remain because their work pertains to functions in the City Clerk office.

Ms. Rehbein stated the neighborhood project funds were previously reduced by \$2000 leaving the fund with \$18,000 and she reported the funding has been restored to \$20,000. She said the City

Council discussed the City Clerk's financial obligations and this was part of the proposal. The proposal includes the city council to meet bi-weekly, which will create savings and time for the two full time employees in the City Clerk office to assist with the neighborhood office. If the council does not elect the bi-weekly proposal, the City Clerk office will have the option to hire a work study student for 15 hours a week to assist with the neighborhood office.

Ms. Rehbein said the bus tour funding has been increased from \$400 to \$1,700. The increase will eliminate spending from the neighborhood funds to pay for the bus tours. The yearly neighborhood funding pays for operating and mailing expenses.

Mr. Nicholson discussed city taxes and he supports the Mayors budget to cut costs.

Lyle Guertz asked if the city's revenue decreased because the city's population has decreased.

Ms. Rehbein discussed the city's general fund taxes and said centrally assessed properties like MRL, Qwest and Northwestern Energy comprise about 11% of the city's general fund. She mentioned the economy is bad and the value of these businesses has declined leading to lower revenue projections forcing the city to seek other options.

Don Sims asked if there will be another secretary to staff the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team (GGEC).

Ms. Rehbein stated Kelly Elam maintained the secretary position for the Office of Neighborhoods a few years ago and staffed the GGEC team. Ms. Elam will resume responsibility of taking minutes for the GGEC and Community Forum.

Kathy Snodgrass said the city considered the union contracts in the budget and asked if Ms. Ross lost her position when it was evaluated. (Correction) Ms. Snodgrass corrected her statement and said she asked whether the city had been following work force reduction procedures and if Ms. Ross had the lowest seniority.

Ms. Rehbein discussed the City Clerk office obligations and operational expenses. She noted when expenses are reduced; programs are usually the first to lose their funding. The City Clerk office hasn't microfilmed the city council records for the past three years, and noted city records are a permanent part of history and are very important. Ms. Rehbein stated the City Clerk expenses for some line items cost more than what was budgeted and so other lines are used to cover the overage.

Ms. Snodgrass stated she understands the priorities, but noted she will miss Ms. Ross and did not want her to go.

Ms. Rehbein stated Ms. Ross worked hard, did nothing wrong, and is not at fault. The office will also miss Ms. Ross and the decision is strictly budget related. Ms. Rehbein noted Ms. Ross graciously accepted the news when she received it.

Erin Scott stated she will keep the forum updated as changes transpire.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Staff Report

Ms. Scott said the Leadership Team agreed to create a monthly staff report to help save time and it will be attached with the agenda and meeting minutes. This report is written overviews of April's training regarding appreciate inquiry, the bus tour, and the three small grant applications.

Ms. Scott noted Jon Wilkins is absent and he asked Ms. Scott to mention the rules and responsibilities regarding county residents who reside adjacent to city boundaries, and he wanted to remind the council to clarify their by-laws, if needed.

Ray Aten clarified most of the neighborhood by-laws state "a member of the neighborhood council is a person who is required to reside in that neighborhood within the city limits" and "a member of the Leadership Team is a person who is required to be a member of their neighborhood council."

Don Sims stated the Upper Rattlesnake Leadership team has one member Mary Louise Zapp Knapp who resides as a county resident. There was an exception to the rule to allow her to become a member and he asked how the exception was created.

Ms. Scott replied the Rattlesnake by-laws are specific and refer to a county liaison as part of the leadership team and Ms. Zapp Knapp was the coordinator of the project funds.

Mr. Geurts asked if there is a way to coordinate with the county to include county residents in the neighborhood meetings and projects.

Ms. Scott suggested coordinating a meeting for all the neighborhood councils who reside by a county boundary to discuss including county residents in the neighborhood council by-laws. She mentioned funding and votes are a large issue in the by-laws also.

Ms. Scott discussed the forums binder contents.

Mr. Aten asked if the neighborhood councils are unable to decide how funds are reallocated; the councils need to understand left over funds can be used by other neighborhoods for operational and mailing expenses.

Nominate Leadership Team Members

Mr. Stevens said the current leadership team members are Ray Aten, Don Nicholson, Hans Christensen and Greg Gullickson. He clarified Mr. Christensen is not interested in serving on the team any longer.

Mr. Aten said the by-laws state three to seven members can serve on the team but they need to be a member on community forum.

Mr. Stevens asked for nominations.

Mr. Aten stated Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Gullickson and himself are interested in serving again and nominated everyone who is present.

Mr. Sims asked if a member can resign the position early.

Mr. Aten said yes.

Mr. Sims stated he is interested in serving on the team.

Mr. Sims said he will serve on the team when Mr. Nicholson has finished his term.

Mike Hathaway accepted the nomination.

Eric West accepted the nomination.

Jon Salmonson accepted the nomination.

Mr. Gullickson is not declining or accepting.

Jeff Stevens accepted the nomination.

Mr. Stevens stated the vote will take place at the next Community Forum meeting.

Nominate Neighborhood Project Fund Committee Members

Mr. Stevens stated the current committee members are Don Sims, Hans Christensen, John Firehammer, Lyn Hellegaard and Jim Meagher. He asked how many people are needed to serve on the committee.

Ms. Rehbein replied, three members.

Mr. Stevens asked which members on the committee are interested in serving another term.

Ms. Scott said Mr. Christensen is not interested in serving at this time.

Mr. Aten stated he is interested in serving and nominated himself.

Mr. Sims stated he is interested in another term because he finds it fun.

Mr. Sims nominated Mr. Firehammer to serve another term.

Mr. Stevens stated voting will take place at the next community Forum's meeting.

Vote on the Small Project Grants

Ms. Scott stated the Office of Neighborhoods presented two small grant applications to the Community Forum because they are from individuals and not encouraged by a neighborhood council. The Artreach application is asking for \$300 to purchase art supplies for a wall mural. The second application is asking for \$200 to fund a boxcar kitchen for the Burns Street Square community meetings. She said another application was submitted this month for \$200 to help fund the LaFray Park Community Garden.

Mr. Aten stated the leadership team was hesitant because the grants are proposed by individuals and not from a neighborhood council. He said in the past it was clarified that the applicant is required to include their neighborhood council in the application process, and that is why they are being presented at this meeting.

He said a letter has been submitted from LaNette Diaz Northside/Westside council to support the kitchen boxcar and mural.

Mr. Aten said the LaFray Park Community Garden application is from the River Road neighborhood council.

Ms. Snodgrass clarified small grants are limited to \$200 and one grant is requesting \$300. (Correction) Ms. Snodgrass said she clarified what happens to the \$300 request as small grants are limited to \$200.

Mr. Stevens clarified if the grant is approved, it will be amended to \$200.

Mr. Nicholson noted the application for the mural pays the cost of the paint and not for the artist's work. The second grant is for a garden plat in LaFray Park. He mentioned the Grant Creek neighborhood council contributed money to the small grant fund and he supports both projects.

Ms. Snodgrass asked if the Northside/Westside has plans for their left over funding.

Ms. Rehbein stated there is a resolution regarding appropriate usage of neighborhood council funds and it states projects cannot be funded for themselves because of past projects that created problems. She said if a project is under construction, the funds are to help purchase operational supplies (example: a scheduled work day would allow the purchase of garbage bags and other items to support the project). The funding is intended for newsletters, mailings, meetings, neighborhood cleanups, tree installation in a park or an ice cream social and etc., and a meeting is required to create the project.

Mr. Stevens clarified the forum's requirement is to make sure the applications meet the criteria.

Mr. Nicholson stated the City Council is micro-managing the funds more than they should and the neighborhood Councils should be able to spend their money the way they want to and he suggested submitting a resolution the City Council to rescind the current one.

Ms. Rehbein noted the resolution started with the forum that formed a committee to create the resolution and it was adopted by the city council when Mr. Nicholson was a council member.

Mr. Nicholson moved to approve the two small grants for the Artreach Missoula and the LaFray Park Community Garden.

Mr. Aten offered a friendly amendment to accept the NMCDC/Burns St. Square Community meeting project application.

Mr. Aten seconded the motion.

Mr. Stevens clarified the Arteach project will need to be amended from \$300 to \$200.

The forum agreed.

The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Active Transportation Plan – Jon Salmonson

Mr. Salmonson stated the Active Transportation Plan committee has been meeting regularly and the Office of Planning Grants Transportation Department discussed the bike/ped count results that were previously held in certain areas of town. Copies of the count results are located in the folder for viewing. There were two different counts and 17 count locations. Mr. Salmonson discussed the pie chart results that were created.

Ms. Snodgrass stated the study is interesting and is useful information.

Mr. Stevens suggested reconstructing the chart to make it easier to read and understand.

Mr. Guerts asked how the sites were chosen.

Mr. Salmonson said there were 35 sites chosen, but there were not enough volunteers to participate in the counting process. The neighborhood that the volunteers reside in is where the sites were located.

Bus Tour Update & Vote on Budget

Mr. Salmonson stated the bus tour theme is "Sustainability and Community". He stated HomeWORD has scheduled a sustainability tour on the same day of the bus tour and they are planning an open house at several locations around the city regarding sustainability. He mentioned the bus capacity holds 55 people and there will be pizza following the tour.

Ms. Snodgrass noted the bus tour is focused on sustainability and community. She discussed the bus tour agenda and said there will be tickets available for people who would like to visit the sustainability sites after the bus tour.

Mr. Salmonson discussed the bus tour route.

Mr. Nicholson asked why the bus tour expense sheet includes a Greenough Park rental fee.

Ms. Scott said there is a policy to pay a fee to rent the space.

The forum discussed the bus committee budget.

Mr. Gullickson moved to approve the bus committee budget for \$1,421.

Mr. Aten seconded the motion.

The motion passed with one opposing, Don Nicholson.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Jon Wilkins is absent.

Neighborhood updates

River Road - Mr. Hathaway stated their council met on May 5th and they discussed the neighborhood name change from Emma Dickinson Orchard Homes to River Road Neighborhood. The LaFray Park playground equipment selection will be installed by the community volunteers in July.

The Milwaukee trail connections that runs through the neighborhood.

The project for the traffic signal box on the corner of 3rd and Reserve has been completed.

The community garden project.

Grant Creek – Mr. Nicholson passed.

Lewis & Clark – Mr. Gullickson stated they will be meeting on June 3rd and will be discussing bike paths on Bancroft St, election of officers and the Lewis & Clark grade school playground equipment.

Southgate Triangle – Mr. West said in the last meeting they discussed an ice cream social in July, and mentioned the neighborhood council is lacking members.

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Mr. Aten passed.

South 39th St. – Mr. Stevens said they met in April and discussed grant applications. They discussed working with Lewis & Clark neighborhood council and Southgate Triangle regarding traffic signal boxes and the Tonkin Trail project.

Upper Rattlesnake – Mr. Sims stated the council is working with the transportation issues.

Moose Can Gully – Mr. Guerts reported they are scheduled to have a council meeting in June to discuss the large grant trail improvement projects.

Captain John Mullan – Ms. Snodgrass reported their neighborhood had a charette last month for Pleasant View Park. They are planning a neighborhood picnic sometime this month.

Franklin to the Fort – Mr. Salmonson reported they met on May 25th and discussed new playground equipment, bus tour plans, a summer social on July 25th and possible boundary adjustments.

DESIGN REVIEW OF MARKETING MATERIALS

Ms. Scott distributed a packet that includes six different designs and a rating page with comments.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

City Clerk Office