

**Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
July 22, 2010, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Moderator, John Firehammer**

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

City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins
Neighborhood Liaison – Erin Scott

OTHERS PRESENT

Chase Jones, Bruce Bender

QUORUM

A quorum was not present

APPROVAL OF CF MINUTES

Minutes will be approved at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items from the public)

None

PRESENTATIONS

Chase Jones, Green Blocks

Chase Jones stated the city will be providing a new [Green Blocks program](#). Green Blocks is a residential energy efficiency program for communities to come together and build social capital.

Mr. Jones stated Green Blocks is structured with two phases, which are Green Blocks Core and Conservation Side Orders. The core program consists of two audits, one is a home energy audit performed by Northwestern Energy. The auditors will visit homes, free of charge and perform a four hour energy analysis. They will install energy saving measures as a result of their findings such as sealing gaps in doors and windows, installation of thermostats, wrap hot water heaters,

pipe wrapping and they will install compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). The package is worth \$1600.00 per home.

The second audit allows Mountain Water to perform a water wise audit, and they look for water leaks, adjust toilets and offer other water saving measures. It also helps to save water flow through the wastewater treatment plant.

The conservation side orders program is a companion to the Green Blocks Core but is separate from the audits. The program offers discounts on different areas that the participant would like to customize. The side orders menu offers a 25% discount with Clawson Windows, solar and renewable energy assessment, and he noted Sustainable Building Systems will come to the participant's home and perform a solar site assessment for feasibility.

Mr. Jones said the menu offers recycling and pre-cycling option's that consists of limited packaging from stores, creation of compost boxes and the recycling blue bags.

The Sustainable Transportation section offers customized trip planning for bike and bus routes, car and van pooling and free bus passes.

Mr. Jones discussed other options by converting water using grass to native or water plants that conserves water and encourages urban wildlife. Marilyn Marler and Dave Schmetterling have utilized this option and they conduct an onsite workshop with people who are interested. He noted some landscapers will provide a discounted price plan for people who want to convert their yard to native and water wise plants.

The menu offers a plan for growing food. A group called 1000 New Gardens will come to a participant's house and prepare a garden plot and provide information and seed.

Kathie Snodgrass asked if the audits are available to stick framed houses and mobile homes. Mr. Jones replied stick homes only qualify and they are required to be built before 1990.

The forum discussed Mr. Jones discussed the Green Blocks application process and requirements.

Bruce Bender, City Budget

Bruce Bender, City Chief Administrator Officer stated the State of Montana utilizes maintenance districts and the larger cities provide them. The Mayor's office has been working on creating a city wide improvement district for road and parks.

He said the city's FY2011 budget is short \$2 million. The city departments were asked to cut 4% last year and 2% this year. The city asked the unions to participate in a wage freeze and they agreed. The wage freeze solved \$800,000 of the \$2 million and the 2% department cuts helped. If the city were to request more cuts the city will not be able to sustain services and that is why the road and park districts are being proposed. The city needs to balance the budget to sustain services to the public.

Mr. Bender presented a powerpoint presentation and mentioned Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell, Great Falls and Helena sustain street maintenance districts successfully for several decades. He discussed the different districts the cities provide.

He discussed the difference between maintenance and improvement districts. He clarified the city is proposing supplementing operations and not creating improvements. The council struggles with costly SID's for improvements and the proposed districts can help provide a tool to help pay for large assessments.

Mr. Bender said the park districts will provide maintenance to maintain grass, irrigations, trees, facilities, playgrounds, lighting, restrooms, trails and open space and noted the district funds cannot be spent on non eligible items.

The city council passed the Resolution of Intention and a public hearing has been set for September 13th and he encourages everyone to attend and participate. There will be 20,000 notices mailed out to all property owners who own property in the city limits. He said if the city receives over 50% of protests against the proposed districts, than the council cannot act on it. It is not based on 50% of 20,000 parcels but based on the 50% of the assessed value of parcels. If the districts pass the council will determine the fees annually.

Jon Wilkins asked if churches and non-profit organizations are exempt from this assessment.

Mr. Bender stated no, churches and non-profits organizations are tax exempt, but a district assessment includes them. There is [a link on the city website](#) to allow property owners enter their name or address and it will calculate how much the assessment will be and he demonstrated the calculation link on the city website.

The forum discussed the difference between an assessment and a tax.

ON GOING BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Plan (Community Forum support for MATP project list)
No quorum was present; voting will take place at the next meeting.
2. Small project Grant – digital cameras
No quorum was present; voting will take place at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Erin Scott, Neighborhood Liaison stated the FY2011 has started and the neighborhood budgets have been replenished to \$800.00 per neighborhood. River Road neighborhood spent a couple hundred dollars on their celebration for Hope park.

She reminded the forum that the project funds committee will have an orientation meeting in August. The funding has been expanded for Community Forum to \$1700 and this will fund the bus tours, volunteer of the year award and miscellaneous programs.

Jon Wilkins stated the funding is available because the preliminary budget was approved.

Heart of Missoula – Bill Flannery stated the leadership team met July 20th and discussed the planning process for a neighborhood park. There will be a neighborhood council meeting on September 9th and the leadership team will meet on August 13th.

Southgate Triangle - Eric West reported the leadership team met on July 14th and discussed how to encourage neighbor's to maintain their lawns and new neighbors attended to voice their

concerns. They discussed the new playground equipment in Boyd Park and an ice cream social to celebrate the improvements.

Lewis & Clark – No report

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – No report

University area – No report

Upper Rattlesnake – Don Sims reported the Rattlesnake Transportation Summit is ongoing and the next meeting will be on August 6th in the MRA conference room from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Captain John Mullan – Kathie Snodgrass reported the Pleasant View Park has been transferred to city ownership and can be developed.

Franklin to the Fort – Jon Salmonson reported they will have their yearly social and monthly meeting Sunday afternoon from 12:30 to 5:30 pm in Franklin Park. They planted trees last year and all are doing well except for one. They will have a small memorial service for the one that didn't survive and continue to plant more. They will not be a meeting in August.

City Council Liaison Report – Jon Wilkins said a new police officer was hired to walk and patrol the downtown to help maintain transient problems. The council received emails from tourists and complained about them and mentioned they are not interested in returning to Missoula.

Mr. Wilkins mentioned he has strong feelings regarding the proposed road and park districts that are being created. He noted he is concerned because there is limited control over the districts. He said the first few years will help maintain the budget and not gain any improvements, and if anyone would like to discuss it with him, he is available.

Mr. Wilkins said the council will be addressed with a wind energy plan in the near future that the Planning Board created.

He mentioned he watched a segment on television that addressed solar energy. Neighbors are creating co-ops which make purchasing materials more affordable for the buyers. He mentioned there are houses in Missoula that would be excellent candidates for solar housing.

The forum discussed solar energy and the cost affects.

The moderator for the next will be Kathie Snodgrass.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

City Clerk Office