



MISSOULA NEIGHBORHOODS
Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
September 22, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Moderator, Cathy Deschamps

Captain John Mullan – Absent
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Absent
Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillan
Grant Creek – Absent
Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery
Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Bill Roduner
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts
Northside/Westside – Casey Dunning

Riverfront – Absent
River Road – Jesse Neidigh
Rose Park – Nancy McCourt
South 39th – Cathy Deschamps
Southgate Triangle – Erik West
University District – Absent
Upper Rattlesnake – Absent

City Council Liaison – Absent
Neighborhood Liaison – Jane Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Kelly, Erika Foster, Rachel Robinson

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for August 25, 2011 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

★Livestock in the City

Ms. Robinson stated she is a member of a livestock group who monitors the City ordinances and proposes amendments. She said the current ordinance describes livestock as horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, cattle and any other livestock that live on an acre or more. No livestock of any kind, except for chickens, are allowed on lots less than an acre unless they are part of the grandfather clause.

The group's proposal is to allow goats, and potentially other livestock, on lots less than an acre with reasonable restrictions. Goats provide enough provisions to sustain a family of four with milk, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, soap, lotions and meat, which will help families economically. She

mentioned goat's milk is healthier for people and difficult to get, and they also make good pets, pack animals, and they help with weed control.

She stated the group addressed concerns including:

- Goat smell – females and neutered male goats will be allowed and limited to a certain number
- Noise – a proper shelter will be provided for goats to sleep at night
- Danger – all male goats will be required to be de-horned
- Goats At large – fencing will be required
- Bears – fencing required and food kept in bear proof containers

The group is dedicating their efforts to educate the public and support goats to live within the City limits. She asked if the Forum is interested in supporting the proposal.

Mr. Flanery stated not all male goats need to be de-horned, and he felt that this requirement may be inhuman. Ms. Robinson stated they are dehorned at a young age and it is a painful procedure.

Mr. McMillian asked if there are health issues involved regarding cleanliness and exposure to contaminated milk.

Ms. Robinson replied salmonella and E Coli are a possibility, and the state does not allow raw milk of any kind to be sold to the public. Some families will choose to pasteurize their milk and others do not.

Mr. Dunning asked if there will be public education to raise goats and use their resources safely.

Ms. Robinson stated the Missoula Urban Demonstration Garden offers a wide range of classes, and there are online resources to help people learn how to take care of goats.

Ms. Robinson was invited to attend all neighborhood general meetings to inform neighborhoods of allowing livestock within the City limits. The general meetings are posted on the City website.

★Mountain Line Short and Long Range Planning Process

Michael Tree, General Manager stated the bus transportation has not been revised for the last eight years, and the board is considering long range transportation planning for the next 30 years.

He said there will be approximately \$200 million that will come into the community to support transportation for public transit, and the board is interested in what the public is interested in for public transportation. There will be two public workshops scheduled on Wednesday, October 26th at the University Center, room 332 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, and on Thursday, October 27th at the Holiday Inn Ballroom from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

In addition to the two public workshops there will be three focus groups formed and one will consist of Neighborhood Council Representatives. There will be a letter sent to the Neighborhood Leadership Teams asking for volunteers to create a focus group based on what is important to residents in their neighborhoods regarding transportation. There will be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that will meet frequently during the planning process.

After recommendations and changes are established, the public will be given a chance for additional input to help the board address policy makers for approval. After approval, the plan will be implemented into the community as a long range transportation plan.

Mr. Roduner asked why the bus system does not provide service in the Miller Creek area. Mr. Tree stated he is new to Mountain Line, but he was informed that there are a few residents in the Miller Creek area who are members of the Transportation District. He receives requests from Miller Creek residents to establish Miller Creek bus routes. There will be an opportunity for residents to participate in the Transportation District, and he encourages people who live in the Miller Creek area to participate in the transportation workshops.

Mr. Dunning asked if the street car option would be feasible for Missoula. Mr. Tree discussed the street car option and mentioned the street cars are more for the metropolitan environments.

★Sex Offender Monitoring in Missoula

Detective Merifield, Missoula Police said Missoula has a tremendous number of sex offenders and there are different reasons for the large numbers. Missoula currently has 254 sex offenders, 309 violent offenders and 17 sexual and violent offenders. The numbers are high because the pre-release center accepts them when they are released from prison.

Once a year she and several teams visit every person on the sex and violent offender registry in Missoula and they get to know them by name and face, and noted not everyone on the registry is a pedophile. Currently there are public concerns regarding the relocation of the Poverello Center and the sex offenders that would be in their neighborhoods. Many of the offenders are from the transient population who come from other states.

She presented and discussed a PowerPoint presentation that she uses to train new Police Officers. The presentation begins with the State of Montana's sex and violent offender's registry which is intended for the public to be aware of who is living in their communities.

Sex offenders are required to register with the State throughout their lifetime, and violent offenders are required to be registered for 10 years. Violent offenders have a tendency to reoffend faster than sex offenders. A person with a third conviction for a partner--family member assault is required to register as a violent offender, and often times the convicted person will continue the same behavior.

The sex offenders are labeled in tier levels as one, two and three and non designated sex offender. The State of Montana recognizes tier level designations from all states and the Federal Government. The offenders are designated a tier at the time of conviction and when the offender is not designated a tier; (because of coming from another state) the state prison will conduct an inquiry and designate a tier.

Detective Merifield mentioned the public is concerned with transient sex offenders who are registered and living under the bridges. The reason most of them live under the bridges is because when they are released from prison, they cannot afford a place to live.

The state sends a letter to the offenders and they are required to answer the questions and send it back in a certain time frame. When the offenders fail to mail the form back, Detective Merifield receives an email and will go to the offender's location and check on their situation.

She said the Police Department receives calls from citizens who are concerned that a sex offender has moved next to a school or a place where there are children. The state law allows sex offenders to live where they want to although some places in the City will not rent to offenders. If the offenders get pushed out of neighborhoods and into the outskirts of town, where there is no housing, they may become transients. There are some offenders on the registry that had an offense that occurred 20 or more years ago and are not a threat to the community.

She stated she is available to attend neighborhood council meetings, schools or other events to discuss and educate the public regarding sex and violent offenders.

The Forum discussed the regulations regarding the registry.

Reallocation Fund Request - \$500 for the Justus Lane Community Area Development:

Renee Kjelsrud stated the River Road Neighborhood Council is requesting \$500 to fund materials to construct a small common area into a neighborhood park. The park will keep the children from playing in the streets.

Mr. Gullickson moved to approve the request for \$500 to purchase materials to improve a common area in the Justus Lane community area.

Ms. McCourt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Staff Report

Ms. Kelly welcomed Erika Foster to the Office of Neighborhoods. She is a work study student and she will be assisting with the outreach events planning.

Ms. Foster stated she is a senior and studying Environmental Studies and Resource Conservation at the UM, and she looks forward to working with the neighborhoods.

● **City Election Information**

Ms. Kelly said the Missoula County Election Office administers the elections for the Missoula County. The municipal election for the Ward representatives is on November 8, 2011. All of the ballots will be mailed out on October 24th. Information can be accessed through the County website at www.co.missoula.mt.us.

● **Sunday Streets Report**

Ms. Kelly said the Sunday Street event was successful, but there were 1000 less people than the June event. They distributed balloons and cookies and discussed the neighborhood councils with interested citizens. There were 24 new people who signed up for the newsletter, and she showed pictures of the event.

The event is not a festival, and the purpose of the event is to allow neighbors to use the street for what they want to do, without motorized vehicles. She spoke with the Sunday Streets committee and they are interested in expanding the event to allow other neighborhoods to participate.

● Other information sharing

Ms. Kelly attended the University ice cream social event and the purpose is to welcome the new students to the University area. It was well attended with students, City Council members and Mayor Engen.

Dustin Delridge is the new Quality of Life Police Officer and he is working with the UM. There is a new program called the Student Neighborhood Ambassador Program (SNAP). The program is currently testing a small area in the university area and their objective includes:

- Create a preemptive program for student renters that decreases identified neighborhood disturbances
- Educate students on their rights and responsibilities as renters
- Encourage neighborliness between students, renters and permanent residents
- Promote community for off campus students

The neighbors will be able to discuss their complaints with the student ambassadors and suggest ways to improve their neighborhood. The ambassador's tasks include:

- Create and distribute a monthly news letter
- Identify one neighborhood problem and a strategic project for the year to address
- Gather names and contact information for each neighbor
- Organize one street or neighborhood event for the year

The students will receive a \$500 stipend each semester, and the program has been experienced in other college towns and proved to be effective. She showed pictures of the event.

Ms. Kelly noted Dave Chrismon is working to develop the University Neighborhood Council with a new Leadership Team. She gathered 18 new people who signed up for the newsletter and three of them would like to participate on the Leadership Team.

Lewis & Clark Playground

Ms. Kelly stated a \$3000 grant was contributed to the new Lewis & Clark playground equipment. There were over 500 people who attended the Grand Opening and she showed pictures of the event.

REPORTS:

Ms. Kelly reported the small grant fund has \$430 and the Reallocated Funds has \$3,500 remaining.

Neighborhood Council Report

River Road – Jesse Neidigh reported the Milwaukee Trail Grand Opening is scheduled on Sunday, Oct. 16th, and the general meeting is scheduled on Oct. 6th.

Miller Creek – Bill Roduner – No report

Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson reported they met on Sept. 7th and conducted a Candidates Forum, received a presentation from the Fairgrounds Director and discussed the Lewis & Clark playground completion that totaled \$142,000.

Southgate Triangle – Erik West reported the Leadership Team met on Sept. 14th at McLeod Park. The general meeting is scheduled for November 9th at the Southgate Mall Community Room.

Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery reported their general meeting is scheduled on October 12th and a Candidates Forum is planned.

Rose Park – Nancy McCourt reported they are seeking Leadership Team members.

South 39th – Cathy Deschamps reported they had a joint meeting with Moose Can Gully and Miller Creek neighborhoods and conducted a Candidate Forum for Ward 5. She mentioned she is receiving complaints about the weeds that are growing in the medians on 39th Street; she is trying to address the problem. She asked Renee Mitchell for crash statistics on Dore Lane and Brooks Street and she addressed the City Council to lower the speed limit on Brooks St.

Northside/Westside – Casey Dunning reported they met this month and discussed the pocket park, received a presentation from Partnership Heath Department, conducted their Leadership Team elections, and scheduled a neighborhood meeting/party on October 4th.

Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts reported they met in a combined meeting with South 39th and Miller Creek neighborhoods and conducted the Ward 5 Candidates Forum, and they are planning a hike and picnic in the spring.

Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillan reported the Leadership Team has been discussing the EIS report for Russell St.

City Council Liaison Report – Jon Wilkins Absent

Mr. Flanery will be the moderator at the October 27th meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office