



MISSOULA NEIGHBORHOODS
Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
November 17, 2011, at 7:00 pm
Moderator—Nancy McCourt

Captain John Mullan – Steve Schmidt
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten
Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin
Grant Creek – Absent
Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery
Lewis & Clark – Absent
Lower Rattlesnake –Carol Elsen
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts
Northside/Westside – Absent

Riverfront – Gwen Hoppe
River Road – Jesse Neidigh
Rose Park – Nancy McCourt
South 39th – Cathy Deschamps
Southgate Triangle – Christine Ross
University District – Absent
Upper Rattlesnake – Absent

City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins
Neighborhood Liaison – Jane Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Kelly, Erika Foster, Denise Alexander, Lewis YellowRobe, Aleta Jokisch

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for [October 27, 2011](#) were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Taft introduced himself as the newly elected Ward 3 City Council Alderman. He said he worked for City government in another state for 30 years. The Neighborhood Council program is uniquely sponsored, and he will be representing the Rose Park, University and the Riverfront neighborhood Districts. He is hoping to work closely with the Leadership Teams to help support the quality of life in neighborhoods.

He feels the Leadership Teams should get involved more with City wide issues, and he suggested the Mayors economic development plan, the Russell St. design, Fox site development, transportation plan and affordable housing. He looks forward to working with the Forum.

PRESENTATIONS:

Zoning Notification and Protest of Land Use – Denise Alexander and Lewis Yellowrobe

Mr. YellowRobe, Office of Planning & Grants, presented a [PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding zoning, subdivision, public participation opportunities and the protest process. He distributed a [procedural handout](#) of the PowerPoint and discussed the information.

The process begins with a landowner who submits a zoning action. A notice is mailed to a variety of property owners of who will be affected. A neighborhood meeting is scheduled to inform and discuss the proposed changes. A City Council public hearing is conducted and if the zoning request is denied, the applicant can file an appeal.

The Forum asked questions and clarified the information.

Mr. YellowRobe said he will post the PowerPoint on the website and offered to email it to anyone who would like to review it.

UM Climate Action Now Student Group – Erika Foster and other CAN students

Ms. Foster distributed a [handout](#) regarding the "UM Climate Action Now Student Group Fact Sheet" (UMCAN). She introduced Aleta Jokisch, UMCAN President. The goal is to foster a relationship with the Forum, Student Groups, neighborhoods and community members.

She stated that the program started in 2008 and group consists of a diverse group of students with various backgrounds. She discussed the different committees that the students are divided into and their missions.

Ms. Jokisch stated they are reaching out to the community and are creating more tangible projects regarding energy efficiency, transportation and sustainability. They are also interested in creating a weatherization project as there is not a weatherization program in Missoula, and they would like to create a service. In the future they will ask for the Forum's support.

Mr. Wilkins suggests providing services to individual homes and not require groups of structures, such as a whole city block.

Mr. McMillin said he is knowledgeable with the Green Blocks program and Northwest Energy provides weather stripping for doors and plastic for the windows, but they do not provide anyone to attach it. Helping people with this task could be an option for UMCAN to provide.

Mr. Neidigh suggested more specific details for support.

Mr. Schmidt asked if UMCAN is interested in providing a neighborhood audit. He said the neighborhoods that are currently in a street light district pay the electricity and water bill for the parks and common areas, and he asked if there can be an energy audit provided to help lower the costs.

Ms. Jokisch stated she is not sure and she will discuss this issue with the UMCAN group.

For more information about UMCAN the website address is: www.UMCAN.org

Urban Forestry – Greg Howe

Mr. Howe, Urban Forester presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Missoula's Urban Forestry program. He mentioned he is new to Missoula and has been the Urban Forester for approximately eight weeks.

The Green infrastructure is any network of natural areas, green spaces, and green ways in rural and suburban areas. He discussed different tree species, tree functions and the benefits they provide. The trees in Missoula are mainly Maples and Ash trees and most are old and have lived out their life expectancy. The P&R is improving the maintenance and planting programs, and is currently working on an established Urban Forester Master Plan that will be approved by the City Council.

The neighborhoods have issues with tree species and age classification, and health issues are a threat to a certain type of tree species. Certain diseases can kill a massive amount of trees if exposed. He discussed the Cities ordinance and outreach programs.

The Forum clarified the information in the ordinance.

Reports:

Staff Report - Jane Kelly

Ms. Kelly thanked everyone who donated non-perishable food items and socks for the Thanksgiving food bank drive. The donations will be delivered to the food bank on Tuesday.

She asked for volunteers to moderate the Community Forum meetings for 2012.

Ms. Kelly said there is \$3000 in the reallocated fund account and the small grant fund has \$230.57 available. The grant committee members are Mr. Aten, Ms. Ross, Ms. McCourt, Ms. Wolken and Mr. Schmidt (Alternate). The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

The University District Neighborhood Council has been working to activate the neighborhood council and they have scheduled their first meeting in January.

Ms. Kelly conducted an orientation for new Leadership Team members and it was successful. She offers the opportunity to anyone who is interested.

- **December Holiday Party**

Ms. Kelly suggested a potluck with a white elephant gift exchange. The Forum discussed the food options, time frame and meeting items. The Forum agreed to the potluck party and white elephant gift exchange.

- **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Kelly read the updated long range Transportation Plan from the Office of Planning & Grants. It is a four year plan and they are in the process of creating the committees, they meet monthly and are planning to meet in 2012. They ask for a Forum member to participate. Mr. Flanery has participated in the past and was asked to continue his service.

Mr. Flanery stated he would continue, but he would like to give other interested people a chance to participate. He suggested having two people from the Forum, as there could be a representative and an alternate, and would be willing to fill one of the positions.

Mr. Aten said he has served as an alternate in the past and he will participate again.

Mr. McMillin may volunteer depending on the meeting schedule. Ms. Kelly said the schedule has not been established as of yet, but she will add his name to the list.

- Other Items

Ms. Foster stated the Stories and Stones event was a successful and she presented pictures for viewing.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REPORTS:

Lower Rattlesnake – Carol Elsen reported they will have a general meeting on December 7th located at the Missoula International School at 6:00 pm. Mr. Harby will discuss sidewalk plans for Van Buren St., and a State of Montana staff person will discuss the Interstate Interchange.

Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery reported the Park Plan Committee completed their survey.

River Road – Jesse Neidigh presented the pictures of the Milwaukee Trail Grand Opening.

Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts – No report

Captain John Mullan – Steve Schmidt reported they had their monthly meeting and a Parks Plan Committee meeting and they discussed the Pleasant View Park.

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten – No report

Rose Park – Nancy McCourt reported they have not met, but they continue to seek Leadership Team members.

Southgate Triangle – Christine Ross reported they had a general meeting on November 9th and discussed the URD 3.

Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin reported they had a general meeting and discussed the URD 3.

South 39th – Cathy Deschamps reported they will be scheduling a general meeting soon. She reminded people to watch for the deer on 39th Street.

Riverfront – Gwen Hoppe reported they will meet on December 17th at the National History Center. The Leadership Team meets monthly on the first Wednesday located at Bernice's Bakery at 6:30 pm.

Lower Rattlesnake – Carol Elsen – No report

City Council – Jon Wilkins reported the council has been conducting interviews for the Municipal Court Judge position, and they will choose a new Judge at the next council meeting.

The sidewalk subcommittee will be making recommendations to the council for sidewalk funding.

There has been interest in the Fox Site property to build a hotel and the council will be discussing the proposal. They have been discussing un-conforming lots.

He mentioned he received 100 pair of donated socks and he delivered them to the Valor House.

Branding Report:

Mr. McMillin has no report and he will update the Forum at the January meeting. If anyone has suggestions, please contact him.

The Forum suggested items that will be presented to the City Council.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office