

UPPER RATTLESNAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 30, 2009, 7:00-9:00+

What follows is a summary of the URNC meeting held April 30, 2009, reported to the best of our ability.

7:00-7:23 Ice cream social

7:23-7:25 Welcome and introductions (which included Jason Weiner and John Wilkins, and the Leadership Team members.

7:25-7:40 Elections – Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp and John Wilkins (who spoke as Community Forum Liaison person) both encouraged people to participate on the Leadership Team. Fern Hart volunteered and was elected by unanimous vote. Bridget Kilroy is still Community Forum representative, with Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp as alternate. Sandy Tarr and Dave Berkhof have withdrawn from the Leadership Team, as have Harold and Jan Hoem. Doug Grimm continues on the LT and will handle the sandwich board signs.

7:40-8:15 – Infrastructure. Before the URNC meeting began, Michael Punke had asked to speak on infrastructure to explain that the Friends of Missoula Parks was making progress with connecting the Rattlesnake Trails with other city trails. (He had several children in tow and needed to leave early.) He explained the project and said funds are available to connect with the city trails network. Anna Sain mentioned concern about transients along the trail. J. Weiner said the police would be patrolling. Bridget Kilroy and Harold Hoem had attended a meeting that morning with Dave Strohmaier and representatives from the Lower Rattlesnake to discuss Rattlesnake infrastructure needs. Focus was primarily on transportation and bike/ped/automobile safety. Bridget reported on the meeting with Dave S. and the Lower Rattlesnake, explaining that this would be the first of several meetings, and asking interested people to get involved. Discussion from the floor included concern over the Lolo/Rattlesnake Drive intersection safety, narrow bike lanes not separated from the road, and too high a speed limit on Rattlesnake Drive. Jason Weiner said that the Rattlesnake/Lolo intersection met the letter of the law. Others expressed concern that there might be a fatality there. Infrastructure concerns had been a part of our fire discussions at our fall meeting. Mary Louise Zapp-Knapp mentioned that Sheriff Mike McMeeKin had raised the question of the strength of the bridge across Lolo Street and its ability to carry heavy equipment in case of fire. Jason Weiner stated that inquiries had determined that the bridge was strong enough. Harold gave a brief account of major fires near Santa Barbara, California, (a scene he had visited recently) and in Australia. He related this to the “stay-and-defend” tactic and defensible space in fire response. The DVD of the fire summit meeting is available through MCAT, and Jan recommended a follow-up meeting city wide.

8:15-9:30 Zoning Rewrite. Jan Hoem passed out three handouts: 1) the 25 pages of data copied from Title 19 and 20 that were discussed at the February 26 URNC meeting, 2)

the questions that were submitted on this topic at that meeting (with the information that their questions had been passed on to OPG and the Planning Board members), and 3) three pages with a brief summary of main topics from handout #2 and a statement of what she believed had transpired regarding those topics at the Planning Board hearings. She gave a brief account of the two-year rewrite process, explaining that Title 20 is currently being reviewed in hearings at the Planning Board. She stated that one or more of City Council members John Wilkins, John Hendrickson, Rene Mitchell, Lyn Hellegaard and Dick Haines, referred to as the “minority contingent” of the Council, had been present at every Planning Board Hearing. Harold Hoem said that minutes of the Planning Board meetings were available from OPG for those seeking more complete details. She read through handout #3, with some comments from the floor. She expressed her and her husband’s personal support for clustering and conservation development which set aside large areas for open space. Mr. Millar clarified information on building heights, and Harold Hoem cleared up some information on hillside height requirements to the effect that Title 19 only authorized heights of 33 feet using the modified method (exemptions allowing 36 feet did not apply to hillside lands). Hoem explained the events of the week’s Planning Board meetings (Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:00PM – 11:00PM), where five hours was spent on signs (mostly dynamic displays) and three hours of deliberation on hillside standards, most notable being that they did not vote to increase buildable slopes to 30% from 25%. There was continued public discussion following. John Wilkins urged people to sign a petition that would ultimately require a super majority of City Council members in order for them to remove Title 19 and replace it with Title 20. He said that Title 20 had some major flaws that all City Council members needed to examine. Jason Weiner urged people not to sign the petition and to rely on their elected officials. Mr. Hoem said public participation was important and that the Planning Board hearings were for that purpose. Roger Millar defended the City’s right to make substantive changes in the regulations, and said that removal of PNCs was an example. The public was asked for comments. Additional comments included:

1. ADUs. Mr. Lucene asked why after years of controversy over PNCs are the people doing the planning including ADUs which will be equally divisive. Others complained about their inclusion in the ordinance. Why are ADUs only in single-family areas when some (including Dave Strohmaier) had suggested they might be better-used in multi-family areas.
2. Public Participation. One man spoke of the inability of people to attend lengthy meetings because of jobs and family responsibilities.
3. Corrections to handout #3. Mr. Millar explained that Bed and Breakfasts are “conditional uses,” not an overlay.
4. Mr. Lucene and the members present thanked the Hoem’s for their participation in the zoning issues.

9:30 The public was asked if they had anything else they wished to say, especially those who had not spoken. Doug Grimm reminded people that if they wanted to be on the Leadership Team they should speak up or contact friends or neighbors who might be interested. He also spoke of placing two park benches along Rattlesnake Creek and asked for donation of another. More comments were solicited, but there were none.

9:37 All were thanked for attending. Meeting adjourned.