

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 15, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Location: Rattlesnake Elementary

1220 Pineview Dr.

Missoula, MT 59802

Leadership Team Members Present: Beverly Young, Doug Grimm, Max Anderson, Bill Ruediger, Shawn Sternick

Others in attendance: Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator

The meeting was opened by Shawn Sternick at 6:00 PM

Pizza was served.

6:10 - Jane Kelly provided a brief history of Neighborhood Councils and Community Forum in the City of Missoula. The presentation included a history of the Constitutional Amendments, the restudy of the Constitution and local government, the effort for self governing, the city charter, elections being non-partisan, the start of neighborhood councils, purposing to encourage participation, 18 councils each with 5 to 7 officers, 1 representative to community forum, grants for improvements, volunteer of the year.

6:15 - Public comments on non-agenda Items and Announcements – [these comments actually came at the beginning of the meeting, rather than the planned time] Harold Hoem discussed the update to growth policy. In the past the Upper Rattlesnake growth policy comprehensive growth management plan has not gone through city council. The last one was prepared in 2006 but not acted upon. Van Buren Street and Lolo Street principles and a referenced plan were discussed. A new growth policy needs to consider the comprehensive plan; it stood up in a law suit in Upper Duncan Drive. Beverly Young presented growth policy brochures on Our Missoula that included listening sessions, online questionnaires, 6 different focus groups, economic health and environmental quality. The last meeting is this Friday, the end of April the goals go out and the end of August the plan is published.

Eric Edlund announced that there will be a Watershed Creek Group meeting at the Double Tree this Wednesday.

Bob Wilson of Cornerstone talked about bikes and walking trails. There is money still sitting, not enough to do anything but there is room to do it the right of way is there, safety measures should be done.

Chris Roberts, who has lived here 51 years, would like to find support for the gravel pit area at the end o Tamarak. For 6 years teenagers have made a bike course and the City grades the areas.

Jeff Padgett spoke about urban deer. Fire hazard in the forest is a concern with a rail road crossing and only one exit in the Rattlesnake. The backside of Mt. Jumbo needs to be thinned out.

There has been a parked truck at Duncan trailhead for days at a time.

Boris Soukomnikor spoke about existing trails. Over many years the trails have gathered dry trees. Fire is a danger and could potentially close the trail.

6:35 - Bill Ruediger presented an update on the urban deer issues. The presentation included a review of various options related to urban planning around wildlife in an urban environment. Some residents wish to reduce the deer population others wish to protect the deer population. The presentation included a number of facts about deer, reproduction - breeding at age 1 or 1 ½ for 15 years 2 fawn at a time. When vegetation is down deer produce less. The deer are adaptable. They avoid areas where they are hunted - go to safe areas. Direct removal - pay hunters cost could be \$200 to \$1000 per animal and was tried in Helena. Birth control for deer was tried in Billings at \$50 per dosage. Hunting deer via archery was tried in Missouri. Even a 50% reduction appeared to have little or no effect on deer. Sterilizing deer involve capture of deer and could cost \$500 to \$1000 per animal. Fencing to keep deer from landscaping plants appears to make most common sense and an updated fencing ordinance is being considered by City Council.

7:00 - Transportation Committee, Trails - Bob Giordano, Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team

Trail on the east side of winery, safety and making fences wildlife friendly were discussed. A handout showing areas where sidewalk should be and showing room on the upper right to place a trail was distributed. Greenough road dust when biking and commercial use were discussed as well.

Two roundabouts were discussed. Missoula currently has 5 roundabouts. There were 2 fender benders on Higgins. That intersection is considered an expressway, not a true roundabout. A tight fitting, urban, mini roundabout was discussed.

Safety is a concern at the sweeping turn at Van Buren. The speed is too high and there are many students in the area.

Traveling by the soccer fields in the Rattlesnake there is no shoulder. Safety for kids going to school and drop off zones were talked about.

It was proposed to form a transportation committee with the Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood. Volunteers for the transportation committee were solicited by circulating the sign-in sheets for indication of interest.

7:20 - Leadership Team Elections

Chair

Vice

Treasurer

Secretary

Parliamentarian

Community Forum Representative and Alternate

Two positions are open.

The following were nominated from the floor:

Robin Carey

Tom Gignoux

Kathy Heffernan

Motion to accept the slate of nominees, with one being an alternate, was made by Beverly Young. The motion was seconded by Boris Soukomnikor. The motion was approved unanimously. All three individuals will be on the leadership team, with positions to be determined.

7:25 - City Council Questions and Answers Bryan von Lossberg and Jason Wiener

Jason Wiener and Brian von Lossberg took questions from the residents. The questions and comments included: Lincoln Wood sign and planter have disintegrated and are in need of repair. The City annexed the area and took over the responsibility for upkeep. A request was made for Parks and Recreation to help maintain a bike course created by kids in a gravel pit near Tamarak. Fundraising for another park, a trail in the area near 10 Spoon Vineyard and Winery and discussion of the cost of trail construction and right of way. Use of Psyllium surfacing that is cheaper than asphalt, the need for residents to keep pushing for a solution, lack of available pedestrian trail area near the soccer field and how zoning changes are accomplished were all a part of the City Council Q&A.

The comment was made that the City is preparing a comprehensive growth management plan without considering the earlier planning report submitted by

Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council on same. The City will hold hearings and complete report for action in the Fall of 2015.

There was a call for a warning signal at Lolo to warn of a train blocking access to Greenough. The signal could alert drivers and allow drivers to take an alternate route. The cost appears reasonable and could be facilitated if existing Wi-Fi access was available.

7:45 - WestSlope Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Molly Barth gave a presentation on riparian vegetation on private and public land. The presentation included:

Bull trout spawning on private land, conservation and that creek channelized water temperature is higher.

The owners or renters on each creek side fill out a volunteer questionnaire and a corps member would like to communicate with them.

7:55 - The meeting was adjourned.

What is important to the Upper Rattlesnake Neighbors?

1. Urban Deer – 33 Votes
2. Non-motorized Transit infrastructure –16 Votes
3. Bus Service – 15 Votes
4. Speed Limits – 13 Votes
5. Peas Farm Land – 12 Votes
6. Cell Phone Towers – 11 Votes
7. Safe Routes to school – 9 Votes
8. Managing Human Bear interface – 8 Votes
9. Neighborhood watch – 7 Votes
10. Greenways – 7 Votes

Rattlesnake Creek Riparian Restoration

Rattlesnake Creek typically supports one of the strongest populations of bull trout in the Middle Clark Fork area and is a high priority watershed for conservation of the species. Development and water diversions in the lower reach are some of the biggest conservation threats. Working with the WestSlope Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I am developing a Rattlesnake Creek Strategic Restoration Plan and am seeking input from local residents.

- As a neighborhood resident, what restoration projects along the creek would you like to see completed?
- What Rattlesnake riparian conservation issues do you think are important for the community to be educated about?
- Are you a creekside property owner or renter? Do you feel informed about how to manage streambanks for fish habitat?
- Are you a water user? Would you be interested in participating in a water leasing program to increase instream flow?

Send your thoughts, concerns and questions to:

Molly Barth
Big Sky Watershed Corps Member
Trout Unlimited
mbarth@tu.org | 415-235-7148 (cell)

Thanks!



WestSlope Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Safety & Wellness Revised Goal Statements from 1/29/15 Meeting

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Goal Statement(s)</u>
Walking/Biking Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage healthy lifestyles by having a complete active transportation and transit network for all abilities and recreational opportunities that are safe, clean, beautiful, and navigable.
Parks & Open Space	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula will add and sustain parks, recreational spaces, and open spaces to provide safe and accessible places for outdoor activities and viewsheds. 2. Missoula residents of all ages and abilities will have ample opportunities through organized and unstructured recreation for indoor, outdoor, and multi-seasonal recreational activities.
Health Care Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula will have access to high-quality, convenient, and affordable health care for all. 2. Recognize and foster conditions that improve the health of all Missoulians.
Health & Wellness Promotion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula will be a community that promotes and supports personal health and safety for all.
Homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoulians will have access to affordable and safe housing that is supportive of their physical and mental well-being.
Social Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula residents of all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic status will have access to social services aimed at supporting physical, mental, and economic health and improving a sense of personal safety.
Emergency & Disaster Services/ Crime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the security of Missoulians through the development of well-prepared and responsive emergency and disaster services and infrastructure.
Environmental Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula is committed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment for all.
Built Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula encourages the close connection between development patterns, community infrastructure, and environment as well as the importance of a healthy environment to social, economic, and physical well-being. 2. Building and community spaces in Missoula will be healthy for all ages and abilities.

Environmental Quality Revised Goal Statements from 1/27/15 Meeting

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Goal Statement(s)</u>
Waste Stream	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve Zero Waste within the Missoula community. 2. Reduce the community's solid waste to the point that the landfill is only minimally necessary.
Energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce reliance on fossil fuels. 2. Promote energy efficiency, conservation, and green building practices throughout Missoula. 3. Increase the percentage of renewable energy in Missoula's energy budget.
Air, Soil, and Water Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve Missoula's air quality and visibility. 2. Protect and enhance Missoula's surface and ground water quality. 3. Protect and enhance Missoula's soil quality.
Natural Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance critical wildlife habitat and travel/migration corridors. 2. Protect Missoula's trees and other vegetation in urban spaces.
Growth Pressure and Sprawl	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance Missoula's open spaces. 2. Missoula will guide growth such that use of private automobiles is discouraged. 3. Protect productive agricultural land, water, and agricultural water.
The River	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce recreational impacts on the river. 2. Maintain and enhance the general environmental health of the river, including healthy riparian zones and water quality.
Natural Areas/Outdoor Recreation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain natural areas for multiple user groups and wildlife habitat. 2. Protect additional lands for Missoula open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and recreational trails.
Local Food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further the development of a viable local food system in order to improve the community's degree of self-reliance on food sources. (Partially facilitator suggested.)

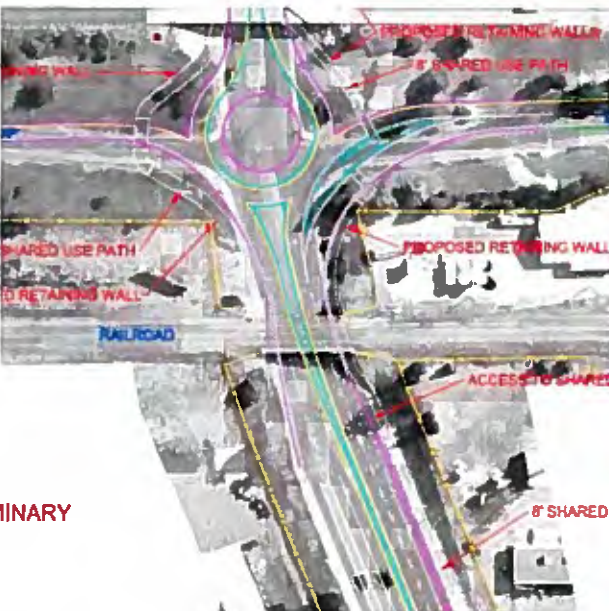
Economic Health Revised Goal Statements from 1/28/15 Meeting

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Goal Statement(s)</u>
Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategically build and maintain critical infrastructure that will support economic development.
Labor Pool	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build and maintain a reliable and skilled work force to both serve existing business and industries and to attract new ones. 2. Work toward a vibrant, diversified, basic sector economy with above median wage job opportunities for the Missoula community.
Business Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and provide resources for business retention, expansion, and relocations to the Missoula area. 2. Support strategic economic development efforts that broaden, expand, and/or diversify the basic sector economy.
Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a full range of viable transportation alternatives and modes to meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.
Local Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and provide the necessary resources that facilitate local business start-ups and business retention in Missoula. 2. Recognize the unique challenges faced by local businesses and entrepreneurs in competing with national and regional chains and franchises.
Downtown	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to create and enhance downtown's business diversity, and economic vitality, and make the urban core a competitive hub for the region. 2. Continue to promote downtown Missoula as the community's center for government, commerce, entertainment and culture. 3. Suggested Alternative: Continue to promote downtown's economic vitality, ensuring diversity of businesses for residents and visitors, and to serve as the community's center for government, commerce, entertainment, and culture.
University of Montana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strive for educational excellence that produces globally competitive graduates.





PEDESTRIANS	Fatal	Serious Injury (hospital)	Other medical
at 2,500 signalized intersections	27	614	701
at 4,000 roundabouts	0	18	39



PRIMARY