

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team Meeting Agenda

Date: August 14, 2015

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Rattlesnake Gardens
2501 Rattlesnake Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802

1. Consideration of support of the attached letter by Robin Carey related to the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Plan and the Missoula Growth Policy
2. Update on Joint Transportation Committee – Bob Giordano
3. Round-Up Use in Greenough Park – Bob Giordano
4. Options to deal with the toxic coating material on the Greenough bridge – Bob Giordano
5. Planning for September 16 General Meeting
6. Discussion of the possibility of a joint meeting on the school bond issue
7. Community Forum Report – Bob Giordano
8. Office of Neighborhoods Report – Jane Kelly, Neighborhood Coordinator
9. New Business
10. Public comment on non-agenda items
11. Announcements

The Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team approved the following statement on July 10, 2015:

The Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan was developed through many hours of deliberation and work by a broad spectrum of residents in the upper and lower Rattlesnake. It has been adopted into every iteration of the county and city Growth Plans since 1988. The 1995 update of the Rattlesnake Plan, as currently incorporated into the Missoula Growth Plan, was arrived at through an extensive public planning process that included citizens groups, university and middle school students, the City Council, the Board of Commissioners, the Mayor's office, the Consolidated Planning Board, the Office of Community Development, the Public Works Department, and others. It was the subject of five public hearings. (View it at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/documentcenter/view/22425>)

The county and city officially incorporated the 1995 version of The Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan into the Missoula County Growth Policy in 2002, and reaffirmed it in a 2006 update to the Missoula County Growth Plan. As such, it is not a dated policy document. Indeed, in the recent citizens' suit brought against the city of Missoula regarding the Sonata Park Subdivision, both the District Court and the Montana Supreme Court cited the 2002 incorporation and the 2006 reaffirmation as relevant to their decisions favoring the citizens. The Sonata Park subdivision was denied by the courts specifically because it did not "substantially comply" with the Rattlesnake Comprehensive Plan.

(See <http://searchcourts.mt.gov> then click Supreme Court Case Number, then enter case number DA 10-0142)

The plan was written to reduce problems associated with unplanned and uncoordinated growth. Its "Goals and Guiding Principles" brim with words such as "provide," "protect," "preserve," "continue" and "enhance." It is a lengthy document with detailed analysis of soils, slopes, wildlife, vegetation, geology, utility corridors, water and sewer services, public transportation corridors, existing land use, proposed land use, proposed densities, flood plain areas, historic and cultural features, and more. As such it is an invaluable public document expressing the unique character and vision of our Upper and Lower Rattlesnake neighborhoods. **We strongly believe that it should be included in the current rewrite of the Missoula Growth Plan with public input and comment as part of the process.** We also believe that any attempts to discard it should be subjected to the same rigorous and extensive public review that accompanied its adoption.