

Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood General Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Missoula Public Library, Cooper Room B

5:30 Pizza from the Bridge & socializing

6:00 Introduction by Peter Lesica, Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team (LRLT)

- 1) There was a motion to approve the November 22, 2023 General Meeting Minutes. That was seconded and approved. Motion made by Robert Schultz and seconded by Gracie Sanford.
- 2) Evora Glenn, City of Missoula, talked about how to electrify residences in Missoula. She showed an extensive list of the rebates and financing available for making changes in your home utilities.
- 3) Ashley Brittner Wells, City of Missoula, gave a powerpoint show about the efforts to update Missoula growth policy and code reforms. There will be a series of community meetings in December 2023 to continue of discussion of code reform in light of equity, land use and climate change issues. There are extensive reports and videos on the web to relate what the process has been to date. Visit <https://www.engagemissoula.com/our-missoula> for more information.
- 4) Jeff Gicklhorn and Peter Whitney of Missoula Parks and Rec did a quick run through of activities in parks and conservation lands in the Rattlesnake Valley. They emphasized the volunteer work on the conservation lands by local citizens. On Mount Jumbo the elk have moved in early but the Mount Jumbo closure is not scheduled until December 1; people are encouraged to sign up as “elk spotters”.
- 5) Bob Giordano updated the work of the Upper/Lower Rattlesnake transportation committee. They have monthly meetings to discuss issues of transportation and trail/road safety in the Valley. Anyone can join the listserve for periodic updates by contacting rattlesnaketransportation@missoula-neighborhoods.org
- 6) Nancy Heil did an update on the Rattlesnake Watershed Group. They have sponsored a series of presentations at the Library on “Rattlesnake Stories”. There was a sign-up sheet to get their monthly newsletter: <https://www.rattlesnakecreekwatershedgroup.org>
- 7) Elaine Shea, one of the neighbors nearby the Prescott School, made a short presentation about the vandalism at the school building. There is now a sensor inside the school to alert the police when someone has entered the building. An informal group of neighbors has started to communicate with the new Superintendent of MCPS.
- 8) Q&A with Jennifer Savage, Heidi West (Ward 1 reps) and the recently-elected rep, Eric Melson: There was some discussion about train horn installations at the Madison and Taylor St. rail crossings. Since Montana Rail Link was sold to BNSF the city

needs a new agreement for installation and funding of these warning horns. Heidi West recapped her 8 years on the City Council; she remarked that there soon should be an ordinance that will allow 4-H kids to have animals within the City Limits. There was some discussion about property taxes and details of how they are computed were provided by former mayor Mike Kadas.

- 9) Peter Lesica, LRLT, noted that the Missoula County Office of Emergency Management will hold a workshop and training on April 3, 2024 at 6 pm related to evacuation plans for the Rattlesnake Valley. There were handouts on the front table about Smart 911 and the emergency planning meeting.
- 10) A representative of the Watershed Education Network urged citizen scientists to get involved in a study of dippers in the Upper Rattlesnake Creek. Information is available at the weblink <https://www.montanawatershed.org/>
- 11) Move to end the meeting at 7:50pm